

## Sudanese riot over shortages\*

Khartoum (R) — Rioters set fire to shops and clashed with police in several Sudanese towns to protest at bread and sugar shortages following a nationwide strike last week, local newspapers reported Wednesday. The protesters clashed with police and rampaged through the town's market houses, two pharmacies, a bookshop and other stores, the papers said. They said merchants declared a four-day strike to protest at the attacks and other paper and troops arrived to restore order. Rioters in the central region town of Sennar southeast of Khartoum set fire to town council offices and shops and also clashed with police, the papers said. Last week thousands of people took to the streets in Khartoum and other towns to protest at price rises in sugar and other consumer goods. A nationwide strike began Thursday and the same day the government scrapped the price increases. The day after, rioting continued. Officials blamed a bread shortage in Khartoum on lack of transport to bring wheat from the port of Port Sudan on the Red Sea, the country's only port. Press reports said Wednesday that police dispersed small demonstrations in the capital by schoolchildren protesting at the bread shortage.

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## AROUND THE WORLD...

### Gunman kills Saudi diplomat in Bangkok

BANGKOK (R) — A gunman shot a Saudi Arabian diplomat dead in the Thai capital Wednesday. Police told reporters they had no immediate indication of a motive for the pistol-slaying of Saleh Al Maliki, 35, third secretary at the Saudi embassy. Police said the "Arab-looking" killer was apparently known to the victim. Witnesses saw them walking together in Bangkok's modern commercial section before the killing.

### W. Germany flooded with asylum-seekers'

BONN (R) — West Germany is becoming flooded with immigrants claiming political asylum but really looking only to improve their standard of living, Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann said Wednesday. "Our asylum laws are becoming more and more the floodgates for uncontrollable immigration," Zimmermann, one of the most right-wing members of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's cabinet, said in a statement. The statement showed 103,076 foreigners applied for asylum in 1988, 80 per cent more than in 1987. More than 29,000 came from Poland, 20,000 from Yugoslavia, 14,000 from Turkey and 7,000 from Iran.

### Vanuatu president held in custody

PORT VILLA (AP) — Officials Wednesday ordered President George Sokomanu to remain in custody another week, as impeachment proceedings against him were postponed because of a cyclone, said diplomats and news reports. Sokomanu, who has filled the largely ceremonial post in the South Pacific island chain since 1980, is charged with inciting mutiny after a power struggle last month during which he attempted to replace Prime Minister Walter Lini. The charge carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

### Bhutto to make pilgrimage

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto will visit Saudi Arabia next week on a religious pilgrimage, her first foreign trip since taking office last month, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday. A ministry spokesman said the visit from Jan. 10-11 was purely for a pilgrimage to Mecca. "It will not be an official visit," he said. If was not immediately known if Bhutto, who took office on Dec. 2 as the first woman prime minister of a Muslim country, would meet Saudi leaders during the trip.

### Moscow orders hospital trains to Armenia

MOSCOW (R) — Three hospital trains will be sent to earthquake-stricken areas of Armenia to improve medical services to survivors, TASS news agency said Wednesday. The report indicated medical care was still insufficient after the Dec. 7 quake disaster. Previous reports have said the tremor destroyed or damaged most medical facilities in the area, and the seriously wounded were evacuated.

### Turkish deputy prime minister resigns

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Kaya Erdem resigned Wednesday, the latest victim of multi-million dollar banking scandal, Anatolian news agency reported. Erdem, a long-time aide to Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, told the agency reasons for his resignation included "developments after one of our newspapers published a story." Erdem, 60, filed a law suit against the mass-circulation Hurriyet newspaper in December after it linked him to an \$80 million banking fraud. Ozal told the agency that he had accepted Erdem's resignation with regret.

### UNESCO launches fund for Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA (R) — UNESCO, the United Nations cultural agency, launched an international campaign Wednesday to raise \$14 million to preserve Ethiopian historical landmarks. UNESCO Director General Federico Mayor said the agency wanted to restore 13th century churches at Lalibela which were hewn out of solid rock. UNESCO will also work on 17th century castles of Gondar, the old imperial capital, and on Stelae at Tiya and at the ancient city of Axum.

### Gandhi killer, plotter to hang Friday

NEW DELHI (R) — The Sikh assassin of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and a former civil servant convicted of plotting the killing will be hanged Friday, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Wednesday. It quoted Rajinder Singh, son of convicted conspirator Kehar Singh, as saying he had been told the date by jail officials. Rajinder Singh said his father and assassin Satwant Singh would both go to the gallows Friday (See earlier story on page 8).

### France to ease naturalisation process

PARIS (R) — France said Tuesday it would make it easier for foreigners to gain French nationality by halving the two-year delay before applications are dealt with and reducing red tape. Health Minister Claude Evin said in a statement many immigrant workers were eligible for French citizenship but were being discouraged by "the excessively long procedure." Evin said the new measure was being introduced under President Francois Mitterrand's proposals to improve the position of foreigners living in France.

### ICRC seeks Arab support in Lebanon

GENEVA (AP) — Andre Pasquier, a senior official of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is in Libya in the efforts to seek Arab assurances for resuming its humanitarian operations in Lebanon suspended last month following threats, an ICRC spokesman said Wednesday. Libyan Television reported Tuesday night that the official and the chief ICRC delegate in Tunis were received by Muammar Qadhafi and said the Libyan leader pledged to use his influence to ensure the protection of Red Cross workers there.

### Bandits free Bhutto servants

LARKANA, Pakistan (R) — Kidnappers have freed two farm workers employed by Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto without any ransom being paid, aides said Wednesday. They said the two men seized last month were released Tuesday. Their family refused to pay a ransom of one million rupees (\$24,000) to the kidnappers, who also demanded amnesty for bandits in prison. Newspaper reports said the kidnappers had been under pressure from police who had surrounded their jungle hideout. Four men were kidnapped by five masked gunmen 19 days ago from Bhutto's farm near Larkana, her home town in Sindh. Two were released soon afterwards with a message to Bhutto demanding a general amnesty or the ransom.

### U.S. urges Greece to extradite suspect

WASHINGTON (R) — Eleven U.S. congressmen Tuesday introduced a resolution urging Greece to extradite a Palestinian indicted in the United States for a 1982 airline bombing. The United States has asked for the extradition of Mohammed Rashid, an American citizen accused of the bombing of a Trans World Airlines jet in which one person was killed and more than a dozen passengers injured. Representative Larry Smith, a Florida Democrat, said he drafted the resolution because of Greece's recent decision not to extradite another suspect, Abdin Al-Zumar, to Italy. If passed by the House of Representatives, the resolution then would be sent to the Senate for action.



### Crown Prince on private visit

Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Diana Wednesday left Amman on a private visit to Austria and Switzerland. During the visit, Prince Hassan will meet with senior officials in both countries. Upon departure, they were seen off by His Majesty King Hussein, royal family members and senior officials (Petra photo)

### British leader steps up pressure on Israel

RIYADH (R) — British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe Wednesday stepped up pressure on Israel to respond positively to Palestinian peace overtures rejected by the Zionist state.

In the keynote speech of a nine-day Gulf tour, Howe told an audience of Saudi Arabian and British businessmen: "The people of Israel should take care not to miss the opportunity which now presents itself."

British officials said later that Saudi officials backed Howe's stand on the need for an Israeli response during talks which focused on the Arab-Israeli dispute and the Iran-Iraq ceasefire.

They said Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal told Howe that, after 40 years of Israel's existence, Arab patience with the Zionist state was at an end and there must be an Israeli answer to the PLO's latest declaration.

The British foreign secretary also met Defence Minister Prince Sultan before flying to Dharan.

In his wide-ranging speech, Howe also urged the release of foreign hostages held by political groups in Lebanon.

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A Lebanese woman and her son, taking advantage of a lull in the fight between rival militiamen, scurry home after buying bread in Beirut's southern suburbs as a Syrian soldier looks on.

## Syrian troops disengage warring gunmen in Beirut

**BEIRUT** (Agencies) — Syrian troops moved into embattled neighbourhoods in south Beirut overnight and separated rival militias locked in a bloody battle for mastery of their community, police said Wednesday.

As the confrontation tapered off in the capital's southern slums, the two warring factions, Hizbollah (Party of God) and Amal, also held their fire in South Lebanon's Iqlim Al Tuffah (apple province).

But the undeclared truce was unlikely to hold for long unless a political settlement is quickly arranged to end the bloody power struggle that has raged intermittently in Beirut and South Lebanon for nine months, officials warned.

The Shi'ite community's mufti said in a statement: "The only solution is to disarm the (two) militias."

"Their weapons have become tools for killing children and other innocent people," Sheikh Abdul Amir Qahlan said.

By police count, 29 people were killed and 66 wounded in

the latest five-day clash. "No one should be allowed to possess weapons in south Beirut except the Syrian forces," Qahlan said.

The Syrians, who have had some 4,500 troops in south Beirut since the first round of Hizbollah-Amal fighting last year, redeployed during the night.

Soldiers wearing helmets and either totting AK-47 automatic rifles or carrying on their shoulders rocket-propelled grenade launchers, quietly entered contested neighbourhoods and began tearing down sandbag barricades the militiamen had erected when this round of fighting began on New Year's Eve, a police spokesman said.

A security source said Tuesday none of the terms of an accord reached between Amal and Hizbollah and sponsored by Syrian officers had been met.

"Neither the barricades were removed nor (did) the militias withdraw from the streets.

"There are no contacts now among members of the security committee entrusted with putting an end to the fighting. Fighting could erupt any moment," the source said.

In South Lebanon, security sources said sporadic exchanges or mortar and artillery fire eased but tension was high.

They said sniping was reported in the villages of Jbal Safi, Jarjouh, Louweizeh and Ain Buswar in the Iqlim Al Tuffah area, 60 kilometres south of Beirut on the edge of Israel's self-declared "security zone."

## Arabs to teach medicine in Arabic

**DAMASCUS** (RI) — Arab universities plan to stop teaching medical courses in European languages and switch to Arabic in a bid to recapture the golden age of Islamic science.

Syrian Health Minister Iyad Shatti said teaching in English, French and Italian would be phased out in several countries over the next 10 years.

"The scientific glories of Arabs which started in the ninth century began only after they absorbed the sciences in their own language, when numerous books were translated into Arabic," he said in an interview.

"We hope that one day we will have an international Arab medicine and become again a source for scientific inventions like those of our ancestors."

The plan was adopted by ministers of health, education and planning from Egypt and most other Arab states after a seminar held in Damascus early this month, he said.

Deans of medical faculties and colleges in most Arab countries urged at the seminar that all medical teaching be in Arabic by 1999.

Shatti said the plan recognised the role played by Arabic in linking the heritage and culture of all Arab states.

He said colonisers imposed

## U.S. voices concern on expulsions

**WASHINGTON** (R) — The United States has said it was very concerned about Israel's expulsion of 13 Palestinians from the occupied territories and said the move would only increase tensions.

Israel flew the 13 by helicopter into Lebanon Sunday, saying they were leaders of the year-old uprising against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We have repeatedly voiced our opposition to the expulsion of Palestinians from the occupied territories. As a strong friend of Israel, we are greatly concerned about these most recent expulsions," State Department spokesman Charles Redman said at a news briefing Tuesday.

"Deportations are an unacceptable practice... they are counterproductive... instead of enhancing Israel's security, deportations increase Palestinian resentment and add to tensions," he said.

"If individuals are accused of... criminal acts, they should be afforded full and public judicial process to defend themselves against any charges. If found guilty, they should be punished appropriately."

He said an Egyptian medical school began teaching in Arabic in 1826 but Britain made it change to English in 1882.

The American University in Beirut taught in Arabic when it opened in 1866 and one of its professors, Christopher van Dick, wrote the first book in Arabic on pathology, Shatti said. But it too later changed to teaching in English.

In Syria, a school for teaching medicine in Turkish opened by Turkish rulers in 1902 switched to Arabic in 1919.

A return to Arabic did not mean a rejection of other languages, Shatti said. "Our insistence on teaching medicine in Arabic is coupled with an insistence on teaching... a foreign language (to) our students."

Arabic had a flexibility and rich vocabulary that made it appropriate for medicinal terms, he said.

Shatti said the changeover to Arabic was encouraged by the Arab League and the World Health Organisation.

## Vorontsov links Afghan pullout to rebel acceptance of ceasefire

**ISLAMABAD** (Agencies) — The Soviet Union's deputy foreign minister warned Wednesday that an estimated 50,000 Soviet soldiers may stay in Afghanistan beyond a Feb. 15 withdrawal deadline if fighting there continues.

"If a ceasefire holds and there is no fighting in Afghanistan, then that's a very good situation for Soviet forces to leave," Yuli Vorontsov told a news conference at Islamabad international airport.

He was in Pakistan's capital for talks on the formation of a new government in Afghanistan.

Afghan rebels headquartered in Pakistan have refused to accept a ceasefire while the People's Democratic Party (PDA) of Afghanistan remained in power in Kabul.

When asked if Soviet troops might stay beyond the Feb. 15 deadline for their withdrawal, Vorontsov said, "We shall see... I don't know."

Vorontsov, who also is the Soviet ambassador to Afghanistan, later met with Pakistan Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan.

Pakistan has been one of the major allies of the rebels fighting the Soviet-backed communists in Afghanistan for the past 10 years.

Vorontsov said he hoped the rebels would change their minds about rejecting the ceasefire.

"It's pity they are saying that,

because it is their country and if they are not going to observe the ceasefire that means they are going to continue killing their own citizens," he said.

"We hope that they will change their mind."

Vorontsov left Tehran Tuesday after two rounds of talks with an Iran-based Afghan guerrilla alliance.

He also met former Afghan King Zahir Shah in Rome last month and invited him to join

talks for a broad-based government to take over after the Soviet withdrawal.

Several rebel groups say Zahir Shah, living in exile in the Italian capital after a 1973 coup, can have no role in the future Afghan government.

"Actually he is in a way an important figure for some of the Afghans, some of the Mujahideen and some of the refugees," Vorontsov said of the ex-king.

"So we wanted to know his views and his intentions."

Vorontsov acknowledged that a new government will have to be established in Kabul, but he predicted the ruling Marxists would survive. The party is "willing to participate in the creation of a broad-based government," he said.

The rebel groups, while divided on many issues, are united in their opposition to allowing Afghanistan's President Najibullah and his party to hold a role in a post-war Kabul government.

Vorontsov said it was "a big mistake" for the rebels to claim

members of the rebel alliance opposed additional meetings with the Soviets.

Mojaddidi said the alliance agreed this week to form a council to select an interim Afghan government. Each of the guerrilla groups will nominate 60 people to this council, he said.

Within the rebel alliance, some leaders are concerned about disagreements among themselves.

"We haven't agreed on anything. Everything is shaky," said Azim Nasser-Zia, a spokesman for the moderate National Islamic Front of Afghanistan which supports a government led by the former Afghan king.

But Nasser-Zia said his group, like the other six in the alliance, is committed to fighting Najibullah's government until it is toppled.

"We won't stop fighting against the Kabul regime but we have promised them (Soviets) we will let them leave," said Nasser-Zia.

"He (Vorontsov) shouldn't bother what we do with Kabul."

## U.S. officials refuse to rule out attack on Libya

**WASHINGTON** (Agencies) — Defence officials said Tuesday that 13 U.S. warships headed for the Mediterranean were on routine deployment, but they refused to rule out any attack against an alleged chemical weapons plant in Libya.

"I am not going to speculate in that area (a possible attack) at all," Defence Department spokesman Dan Howard told reporters in response to questions.

Howard repeated Pentagon statements that deployment of the aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt from Norfolk, Virginia, with 12 support ships last Friday had been scheduled for some time as a replacement for the carrier John F. Kennedy battle group in the Mediterranean.

But he declined to say how long the overlap might be between the expected arrival of the Roosevelt group later this month and the departure of the Kennedy.

The United States has charged that Libya is building a plant capable of producing chemical weapons, a charge denied by Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qaddafi.

President Reagan last month refused to rule out an attack on the new facility 80 kilometres southwest of Tripoli. Libya says it is a pharmaceutical factory.

Navy Commander Mel Suddin, a Pentagon spokesman, told Reuters that the Kennedy battle group, which comprises about a dozen ships of the 23-ship U.S. force now in the Mediterranean, had been in the region since last August and it was

about time to end the group's six-month deployment.

### Italian concern

Italian newspapers and politicians have bailed the arrival of the battle group in the Mediterranean as a direct threat to Libya.

Italian newspapers are giving the armada front-page coverage along with talk of a possible U.S. air strike on Libya.

"Objective Libya," read the leading headline in *La Repubblica*, a Rome-based national daily.

"Super U.S. aircraft carrier ready to attack Libya," it continued.

Politicians also expressed concern.

"The scenario of the American military threat against Libya is totally similar to that of three years ago when, in April 1986, U.S. planes bombed Tripoli and Bengazi," said Mario Capanna, a leader of Italy's small-left Proletarian Democrat Party.

The Italian Foreign Ministry, trying to defuse talk of military action, has said the Libyan plant should be discussed at the international chemical weapons conference that opens Saturday in Paris.

Vatican Radio said Tuesday that the despatch of the Roosevelt fleet had provoked fears of a new U.S. conflict with Libya.

In its daily commentary on international affairs, the radio described the situation as delicate and echoed calls from Italian officials for caution.

## Greek Cypriot leaders agree in principle on reunification strategy

**NICOSIA** (AP) — Greek Cypriot political leaders Tuesday wrapped up five days of talks with an agreement in principle on future strategy for settling the Cyprus problem.

But disagreements remained over tactics for the next round of U.N.-sponsored peace talks with the Turkish Cypriot side on reunifying the war-divided Mediterranean island, they said.

Vassilou and Rauf Denktash, head of the breakaway Turkish Cypriot mini-state established in Turkish north Cyprus, will resume their talks that day.

The two failed to make progress during the first phase of their talks which ended in November.

The talks were the first face-to-face negotiations between the two sides in nearly three years.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who met the two leaders in New York last month for a progress review, proposed they should submit alternative options on all issues during the second phase.

Vassilou told reporters after

the strategy session that the alternative options to be submitted "will not diverge from basic principles."

He said those principles include the right of all Cypriots to travel, work, settle and own property anywhere on the island.

The Turkish side rejects the right of 200,000 Greek Cypriot refugees to return to their homes in the north.

Former President Spyros Kyprianou, head of the centrist Diko Party, and socialist leader Vassos Lyssarides told reporters they support recourse to the United Nations and breaking off the talks if there is no progress by March, when the second negotiation period is due to end.

But Vassilou said he was against "taking a stand on hypothetical developments" and would evaluate the situation when he and Denktash confer with Perez de Cuellar again in March.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Al Akbar shrugs off Israeli objection

**CAIRO** (R) — Egypt's Al Akbar newspaper, responding to Israeli anger at its suggestion that Israel might have blown up a U.S. airliner, said Wednesday the dispute would not affect relations between the countries. Israel told Egypt Monday that an Al Akbar editorial about the Pan Am Boeing-747 blown up by a bomb over Scotland two weeks ago, killing 270 people, could poison relations between the two states. "Al Akbar confirms that the publication does not poison Israeli-Egyptian relations," Wednesday's front-page commentary said. "The stubbornness of some Israeli elements with the Palestinians and the rejection of their rights is what poisons relations."

### Final Taba border marker placed

**TEL AVIV** (AP) — Israeli and Egyptian teams Wednesday laid the final marker designating the border between the two countries, but a foreign ministry official said the future of the disputed Red Sea resort Taba was still open to negotiations. The teams placed border marker No. 91 on a hilltop about 150 metres from the Gulf of Aqaba, overlooking Taba, a one-square-kilometre resort with a luxury hotel and holiday village in the southern Sinai peninsula. Egypt argues that the border should continue in a straight line to the sea, thus placing Taba under Egyptian sovereignty, but Israeli officials claim the final 150 metres of the border and Taba's future must be negotiated. "Until there is some final agreement, this portion of territory will remain under Israeli control," said foreign ministry spokesman Motti Amitai.

### Gorbachev meets Khomeini envoy

**MOSCOW** (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev met a personal envoy from Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini Wednesday, TASS news agency reported. Gorbachev received Ayatollah Abdulla Javadi Amoli in the Kremlin, TASS said. It said Alexander Yakovlev, chairman of the ruling Politburo's Commission on International Affairs, was also present. TASS gave no details of the meeting. On

### 'Maghreb summit due this month in Morocco'

**RABAT** (R) — Heads of state from five Maghreb countries will hold their first formal summit in Morocco this month to consider unity plans, a Moroccan newspaper said Tuesday. The pro-government daily Maroc Soir said they would meet in the southern city of Marrakesh but gave no date.

### UAE upgrades PLO mission

**ABU DHABI** (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) said Wednesday it had decided to recognise the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) office as an embassy, the official news agency WAM reported. "Out of its firm belief in the legitimate Palestinian rights and support for the PLO... the UAE decided to consider the PLO office an embassy of the State of Palestine and the PLO representative ambassador as of tomorrow," WAM quoted a responsible source at the UAE Foreign Ministry as saying.

### Indirect contacts between U.S., S. Yemen

**LONDON** (R) — South Yemeni President Haidar Abu Baker Al Attas was quoted Wednesday as saying his country and the United States had made indirect contacts to restore diplomatic relations. Responding to a question by the Saudi-owned newspaper Asharq Al Awsat, he said: "There are indeed such contacts." The newspaper quoted him from Aden as saying the contacts were indirect, but he said he declined to reveal who the third party was. Asked if he expected quick results, Attas told the newspaper: "Let us be optimistic... the United States is a big country and, along with the Soviet Union, one of the strongest countries in the world. South Yemen is keen to have good relations with all nations of the world." Relations between the two countries were cut in 1969.

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Koran ..... Kur'an

Programme review ..... (Arabic)

Children's programmes ..... (Arabic)

Local programme ..... (Arabic)

Program

## JTV begins weekly news service for hearing impaired

By Rami Amlah  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — As of 6:00 o'clock this evening, and every Thursday evening, Jordan Television (JTV) will air a weekly programme aimed at conveying national and world news to members of the hearing impaired community in Jordan.

A sign language expert, Hind, will be "signing" the news while a news presenter reads the news in Arabic. The programme will start with a three or four item news summary, following by background news summing up events of the week, according to JTV's News Director Ibrahim Shahzadah.

Members of Jordan's hearing impaired community feel that the airing of the weekly news programme is a victory for them. They have been working for it for a long time. Still, some do not know exactly what to expect. "I have never known what news are and what they mean... For me, news have always meant images that move," Sabri, deaf since the age of two, said. "Now I will be able to know why these images are moving."

## Cabinet endorses cultural agreement with China

AMMAN (Petra). — The Council of Ministers Wednesday endorsed an executive programme for the implementation of a cultural agreement between Jordan and China and authorised Minister of Planning Taha Kanaan to sign the documents on behalf of the Jordanian government.

China's ambassador to Jordan Zhang Zhen will sign for his government, according to a cabinet statement Wednesday.

Under the agreement the two sides will exchange publications and cultural material as well as visits by delegations to look into cultural, social and artistic activities in either country.

They will also exchange visits by folk troupes and offer scholarships for students to study sciences, agriculture, engineering and medicine. The two sides will also organise lectures and scientific seminars.

The agreement provides for cooperation in radio and television.

## Exchange company closed for violating currency laws

AMMAN (Petra). — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has ordered the closure of the Saudi Exchange Company, a local money changing firm, for a period of six months for violating Jordanian law," the official said.

He noted that the firm had been fined a total of JD 9,000 for trying to smuggle out of the country JD 26,000 in Jordanian currency and unspecified amounts in foreign currency on three previous occasions in the past year.

## Seminar discusses treatment of natural disaster victims

IRBD (Petra). — A two-day seminar on medical treatment for victims of natural disasters Wednesday began at Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid.

The seminar was organised by the Faculty of Medicine at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) in cooperation with Princess Basma Hospital.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- \* An art exhibition by Friends of Plastic Art in Gulf countries at the National Gallery.
- \* An exhibition of works by Contemporary Arab Artists at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- \* An exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Farouk Lambaz at Al Amr Art Gallery — 5:30 p.m.
- \* The Jordanian plastic art exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- \* The Iraqi Cultural Week which includes an exhibition by the Iraqi artist Salama Al Madamghieh and an exhibition of children's paintings and children's literary and cultural books, at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- \* An exhibition of historical photos and documents at Al Ahli Club which exhibits photos for the late King Abdallah and His Majesty King Hussein besides exhibiting documentary photos and films on Al Ahli Club.

### BAZAAR

- \* A charity bazaar that includes wooden handicrafts, embroidery, artificial flowers, children's toys and cultural books at Al Amr Centre, Rithm Refugee Camp.
- FILM**
- \* A feature film entitled "Inherit the Wind" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.



Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat Wednesday receives the visiting Turkish Ministry of Religious Affairs delegation in Amman (Petra photo)

## Jordanian, Turkish officials discuss services for pilgrims

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A senior Turkish official in charge of religious affairs now on a visit to Jordan had meetings here Wednesday with Jordanian officials to discuss visits by Turkish Muslims to holy places in Jordan during the pilgrimage season in Mecca and Medina, and trips by Turkish pilgrims to tombs of the Prophet Mohammad's Companions in the Kingdom.

Scifuddin Yazi, deputy director of Turkey's religious affairs department first had a meeting with Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs

Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat and later met with the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs' Secretary General Ahmad Hilayel.

The two sides discussed facilities for Turkish pilgrims in Jordan during the pilgrimage season in Mecca and Medina, and trips by Turkish pilgrims to tombs of the Prophet Mohammad's Companions in the Kingdom.

Hilayel said that the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs

provided accommodation facilities for the pilgrims in Ramtha, and health, religious and security services during their stay in the country.

Tombs of the Prophet Mohammad's Companions are found at Mut'a near Karak in southern Jordan and in the Jordan Valley.

The Turkish official who arrived here Tuesday on a week-long visit, is accompanied by a team of officials from his department.



Qasem receives new envoy

Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem Wednesday received a copy of the credentials of Mr. G. Robert Bowker, the newly appointed Australian ambassador to Jordan. Mr. Bowker, who arrived here Tuesday evening, succeeds Mr. Terence Goggin who had served as his country's ambassador here since 1986. Mr. Bowker had served in a number of senior positions at the Australian Foreign Ministry and for some time had been director of the Middle East and South African desk at the Australian Foreign Ministry in Canberra (Petra photo)

### NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

**BANK GUARANTEES:** Prime Minister Zaid Rifai has stressed the need for ministries and government departments to abide by the banking rules and norms which provide for defining the validity of the guarantees which the licensed banks and financial companies issue. In a statement he made Wednesday, Rifai noted that some of the departments still demand licensed banks and financial companies to issue guarantees with no dates or defined validity. He added that since such demands contravene banking norms and rules, then consideration for the date and validity of guarantees issued should be made to preserve the rights of all the sides to the bank guarantees. (Petra)

**NEW MAYORS:** The Cabinet Wednesday decided to respectively appoint Abdal Salam Al Jarrah, Nawfa Al Shihab, Mohammad Al Khazaleh, Mohammad Al Ghithyan, Mohammad Al Mu'ar'ar, Ali Al Khawaleh, and Abdul Latif Al Uwain as mayors of Kathraha, Mu'addi, Al Dajniyah, Abu Nseir, Um Al Qatin, Hayyan Al Rwalid, and Ira. (Petra)

**TAFILEH SEWERAGE PROJECTS:** Representatives of local constructing companies now involved in carrying out sewerage and water projects in Tafileh had a meeting Wednesday with the deputy governor to discuss means of dealing with damage caused in the streets as a result of digging works in lay sewerage networks. The deputy governor urged the contractors to speed up the work especially in the downtown region, so that a programme can be worked out for removing rocks and earth that accumulated alongside the streets. The two sides formed a follow-up committee to undertake this task. (Petra)

**ENVY PRESENTS CREDENTIALS:** Bangladesh President Mohammad Hossain Ershad Wednesday received the credentials of Jordanian Ambassador to Pakistan Fakhri Abu Taleb as Jordan's non-resident ambassador in Dhaka. (Petra)

**EXAMINATIONS:** Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin Wednesday inspected the course of examinations at schools in Na'ur district and Um Al Basatin sub-districts. (Petra)

**HEALTH CENTRES IN MAFRAG:** The Department of Health in the Mafrag Governorate is currently involved in implementing projects at the total cost of JD 1 million, according to the department director. He said that the projects, which will be carried out during 1989, include a mini-hospital at Rweished in eastern Jordan, a comprehensive health centre at Sabha and a similar one at Sama Al Sarhan, all of which to be completed in the coming few months. Work is underway to open health centres in Minifa, Hasab and Mabronka villages all within the Mafrag Governorate. (Petra)

**CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE:** The executive council of the Jordanian Chambers of Commerce Wednesday discussed the plan to establish a united council for the private sector, scheduling the loans of the Ghor farmers, and the affairs of the chambers of commerce. The council decided to dispatch a Jordanian commercial delegation on a visit to Pakistan, in early February. (Petra)

**U.K. ENVOY HOSTS RECEPTION:** British Ambassador in Amman and Deputy Chairman of the Jordanian-British Friendship Association Anthony Reeve Wednesday hosted a reception attended by a number of senior officials in addition to the association chairman and members. He delivered a speech lauding the great role the association played in bolstering Jordan-Britain relations. (Petra)

## Haj Hassan inaugurates locomotive workshop

AQABA (Petra, J.T.) — A workshop which would provide maintenance services to 29 railway locomotives owned and operated by the Aqaba Railway Corporation (ARC) was inaugurated here Wednesday by Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan.

The workshop, which took 18 months to build at the cost of JD 1.5 million was set up by the Indian Railway Construction Corporation (IRCC) on a 3,500 square metre piece of land. Apart from the maintenance area which is equipped with up to date machinery, the complex includes administrative offices, laboratories and affiliated installations.

"The success of the project reflects the close economic cooperation between India and Jordan and is bound to further boost bilateral trade," the minister said in a statement at the inauguration ceremony.

Haj Hassan said that the workshop was needed to cope with the ever-growing volume of rail

transport operations and the constant maintenance needed for the locomotives transporting phosphates from its mines at Hassa to Aqaba where it is loaded on ships for transport.

ARC Director General Mardi Oattamin said that the workshop will remove a big hurdle that used to impede the development of the railway and boost its efficiency.

ARC, he noted, had faced two major problems: A weakness of the railway line which cannot cope with the increasing axial loads and the absence of proper workshops for maintenance. While the second problem has now been taken care of by setting up the maintenance workshop in Aqaba which is being dealt with in development programmes.

## Israel violated Fourth Geneva Convention, Abu Qoura says

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Israeli authorities have violated the Fourth Geneva Convention by deporting 13 Palestinians this week, president of the Jordanian national Red Crescent Society Ahmad Abu Qoura stated Wednesday.

He told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that such actions, which violate the Fifth Article of the Geneva Convention, are considered as a crime committed against the indigenous inhabi-

tants of the occupied territories.

Thirteen Palestinians were expelled from the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip to Lebanon last Sunday, the 24th anniversary of the first military action by the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) mainstream Fatah group.

The 13 were accused of heading popular committees, steering the uprising in the occupied Arab lands.

The deportees were flown by

helicopter to the northern edge of Israel's self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

According to Abu Qoura, the Fourth Geneva Convention provides for protection to the civilian population of the occupied territories.

Israel has expelled 49 Palestinians since the uprising erupted in December, 1987, and a total of 917 since it occupied the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in 1967.

## Tabbaa, Jordanian team review subjects to be discussed in Oman

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tabbaa had a meeting here Wednesday with members of the Jordanian side to the joint Jordanian-Omani committee which is due to hold a meeting in Muscat Saturday.

The minister reviewed with the committee members topics on the agenda which is designed to boost the scope of economic cooperation and increase the volume of trade between the two countries.

UNRWA will also unify its salary scale for teachers and general service workers in Jordan. The organisation will add the social security and cost of living allowances to the employees' basic salary.

Sources told the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i that the unification of the salary scale for teachers implies a 10 per cent increase in the salaries of teachers. Prior to the latest changes, the salary scale for general services workers differed from that of teachers, for whom UNRWA had frozen the cost of living allowance since 1982 due to the deficit the organisation suffered.

Through various memorandum and direct talks with the administration, UNRWA teachers have since then presented their demands which include a unification of the salary scale.

Several committee members have visited Jordan to study the conditions of UNRWA workers in the country, the latest being in October, and aimed at studying the conditions of teachers and comparing their salaries and conditions with other similar institutions.

The committee presented its findings to UNRWA headquarters in Vienna.

Projects, which he visited, included those financed through loans from the Agricultural Credit Corporation, which lends out funds for various agricultural projects in Jordan.

Junehi said that Oman hopes to benefit from Jordan's experience in agriculture, and tourism.

Jordan currently imports fresh Omani fish and exports pharmaceutical products, vegetables, fruit, carpet, pieces of furniture, domestic appliances and glass.

Tafileh is to head the team which will go to Oman Thursday.

Meanwhile a senior Omani official now on a week-long visit to Jordan Wednesday called at a

joint committee will look into the prospect of setting up a joint Jordanian-Omani Holding Company to serve as an umbrella for joint projects. The committee will discuss the prospect of an agreement on transport and to provide Oman with Jordanian expertise in industry, agriculture, and tourism.

The two sides will discuss the prospect of increasing the sale of Jordan's national products to Oman and the importation of larger quantities of Omani fish through the Ministry of Supply.

On the agenda is the question of organising a Jordanian industrial fair in Muscat to help promote the sale of Jordanian vegetables and fruit to Oman and help facilitate the flow of exchanged goods between the two sides.

According to a Ministry of Industry and Trade statement the

five-year development plan aims to raise the standard of living for the population in the Tafileh Governorate which also includes Hassa and Basira.

The five-year plan's first stage focused attention on industrial, agricultural, mining and economic sectors and included provisions for the development of all raw materials, especially those mined at Hassa and Rashadiyah in the southern regions of the

Kingdom.

Developing agriculture in Tafileh region was also sought during the first half of the plan, Israhiel noted.

He said the first phase of the five-year plan witnessed maintenance and construction of main and agricultural roads within the governorate and an improvement in telecommunications and health and educational services.

### Income Tax Department collects JD 43.3 m in '88

AMMAN (J.T.) — Income Tax Department Director General Salman Al Tarawneh announced that a total of JD 43.3 million in income tax was collected by his department in the past year compared to JD 45.3 million in the previous year.

The decline in income tax collection can be attributed to the fact that the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPNC) had paid less income tax in the past year because it had to pay JD 3 million and JD 5 million in 1987 in the course of purchasing the ill-fated Jordan Chemical Fertiliser Industries Company.

Tarawneh noted in an interview published Wednesday by the Al Ra'i Arabic daily.

Tarawneh said that the JPNC has now overcome the previous difficulties and was back on the right track, something which will reflect positively on the department's collections in the 1989.

The government had earlier taken a decision to exempt the Jordan Cement Factories (JCF) from income tax until 1990 after merging it with the South Cement Factory Company. It also exempted a number of Jordanian insurance and financial com-

panies from income tax due to their merger with one another, Tarawneh noted.

The Income Tax Department, he said, is trying hard to make all taxpayers pay their dues on time and to apply the laws and regulations to all sectors in a bid to increase the income tax collections.

He also said the taxpayers with large sums in arrears are allowed to pay their dues in instalment due to their difficult financial situation.

To help increase the income tax collections, department teams began to distribute forms to all taxpayers to be filled and returned to the department so that tax can be calculated on income, Tarawneh noted.

He said last year, the department received 84,032 filled forms compared with 75,546 in 1987, which reflects the additional efforts being exerted by the department staff and the greater public awareness to the income tax procedures.

Tarawneh expected that his department will collect no less than JD 60 million in income tax from individuals and various organisations during 1989.

Tarawneh expected that his department will collect no less than JD 60 million in income tax from individuals and various organisations during 1989.

C- Last date of purchasing copies of documents is 7.2.1989

D- Last date for submitting financial offers is 14.2.1989 at 12.00 noon at the Ministry of Education.

### TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT SEVENTH EDUCATION PROJECT

The contractors who had been qualified previously for the Seventh Education Project and willing to participate in the following bid are requested to get bid documents from the Projects and Buildings Directorate, Ministry of Education from 1/1/1989, with the following conditions.

A- The Seventh Education Project is partially
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## Jordan Times

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## Israeli arrogance may yield to raw economics

TO TREAT the economic malaise that Israel is facing, the new Israeli Minister of Finance Shimon Peres has proposed an austerity budget cutting into the state budget for the new year by as much as \$550 million including some \$200 million cut in the defence budget. This alarmed Israel's Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin who rejected this suggested cut into Israel's military forces on two principal grounds: First, Rabin argued, "if there were a war in two to three years," the Israeli army "would pay a higher price in lives to achieve certain goals because it will not have the other means to achieve them." Secondly, Rabin asserted that the price of dealing with the Palestinian uprising has become exorbitant especially with no end of the uprising in sight.

Such remarks from Israel's defence minister should cause the Arab World some serious concern. If one takes the reasonings of Rabin in reverse order, the Arab side must take political and economic notice that Rabin's occupying forces are committed to a strategy aiming for the quelling of the Palestinian intifada. Rabin and like-minded Israeli leadership are bent on fighting and responding to the Palestinian revolt by fire and blood even if that entails considerable loss of lives on the Palestinian side and colossal financial expenditures to be drained from the overall defence budget of Israel.

And when such military projections are considered in conjunction with Rabin's forecast that a war between Israel and the Arab side could erupt in two or three years, the full dimensions of Israel's military strategy becomes all the more threatening. At a time when the Arab side talks about peace and the convening of an international peace conference and its military preparedness assuming a low profile, it does not take much thinking and analysis to deduce from Rabin's policy statements that if there were a war between Israel and the Arab side in two or three years, it is going to be a war started by Israel.

Yet, the power of economics is beginning to take its toll on Israeli military adventurism. Israel is in the process of discovering that almighty Israel is no different from the superpowers and that the day of economic and fiscal reckoning has dawned. Judging by the degree of austerity proposed by Israel's minister of finance, it would not be long before Israel's arrogance will yield to raw economics and bend in the direction of peace and accommodation with the Arab side. Thus when all has failed, fiscal and economic considerations are coming to the rescue of the fortunes of peace in the Middle East, and Rabin may not succeed in his aging battle for militarism come what may.

## ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily Wednesday commented on a meeting chaired by His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday to review the achievements of the development seminars and the government's policies in the New Year. The meeting came in the wake of the announcement of the new 1989 budget which contains guidelines for the various government departments concerning spending, development projects and research schemes designed to take the country slowly and firmly to the 21st century with a greater confidence, the paper noted. The events of the past year, it said, offered Jordanians a chance to take stock and contemplate the achievements that were realised despite the numerous challenges and difficulties. Not only did the King discuss this in detail but he also dwelt on pan-Arab issues, the paper added. It said that the King's concern over the interest of his country and the Arab nation at large is reemphasised everyday through his directives to the government and his open and clear support for all pan-Arab causes.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily tackles the open U.S. military threats to Libya represented in the movement of American fleets towards the eastern Mediterranean region and the latest statements coming from Washington about the Arab country's production of chemical weapons. Abdul Rahim Omar says the U.S. has threatened to blow up the Libyan plant because it says it does not want "terrorists" to benefit from the chemical weapons in their activities around the world. Despite the fact that Libya has already denied building such a plant and declared that it is a pharmaceutical factory, the Americans are still determined to provide excuses for destroying the plant an action that would be condemned worldwide, the writer notes. He wonders about Washington's moves and asks: Since when the U.S. had been appointed to serve as the policeman of the world imposing its will on other countries? Why, the writer asks, does the U.S. condone Israel's production of cluster and nerve bombs and continue its aggression on the Arab World? The writer says that America's threat directed against Libya should be confronted with a firm stand by all the Arab countries which should declare total solidarity with Tripoli.

Al Dostour daily followed the example of Al Ra'i newspaper in tackling development projects in Jordan as were reviewed by a meeting Tuesday chaired by King Hussein and attended by Crown Prince Hassan. The development projects charted for 1989 as they appeared in the New Year's budget reflect the government's orientation towards maintaining the momentum of construction and progress in all fields and manifest the Jordanian people's desire to overcome the present difficulties, the paper noted. It said that Prince Hassan has devoted his time and effort to promote the development process in the country working diligently under the constant guidance of King Hussein and in close cooperation with the government and the private sector. Sawi Al Shabab daily said in an editorial that the national development conference held in November under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Hussein and the resolutions adopted by the participants serve as a basic strategy for the government's policies in the New Year. The paper said that 1989 budget was in fact an embodiment of the King's directives and confronting to the country's orientation at the national and pan-Arab levels. The new budget, it added, offers the Jordanian citizens an opportunity to adapt to the economic situation now prevailing in the country.

## For Europeans, more at stake in Middle East

By P.V. Vivekanand

IT IS heartening to hear explicit statements from the European Economic Community (EEC) of plans to launch a new peace initiative in the Middle East, shifting from mere declarations to active diplomacy. It is precisely the kind of European move that the Arab World has been awaiting over the past several years since it has been evident that there could never be a just and fair settlement to the Palestinian problem without strong diplomatic pressure on Israel's staunchest supporter and ally, the United States, and that such pressure could only come from the Europeans speaking in one voice to force Washington to prod Israel into dropping its intransigence and defiance.

The new European initiative, which has a declared target of an international peace conference on the Middle East under U.N. auspices, could indeed be a watershed in efforts for peace in the Middle East, particularly if the EEC "troika" — France, Spain and Greece — manage to straighten out at least a part of the fundamental differences in Arab, Israeli, American and European views of what kind of a solution would be just, durable, comprehensive and fair to all parties concerned. More relevant, though, is the avowed Israeli refusal to relinquish territory and to accept the idea of an independent Palestinian state. We hope the EEC realises and accepts that recent fury in Israel to revive the Camp David accords was only aimed at throwing a red herring across the path of the new Palestinian strategy for peace based on a two-state solution, and that the community is realistically convinced that no settlement short of comprehensively addressing the national aspirations of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories will ever be able to restore peace in the region.

One could easily find several reasons why the European Economic Community should take a new interest in the Middle East and push for an international conference. The most prominent of them of course is the intifada in the occupied territories, images of which have created a furor among European public opinion and a new awareness of the realities in the situation, followed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) recognition of Israel and renunciation of terrorism and the American move to open a dialogue with the PLO.

The catalyst, however, for the Europeans is the new trend in superpower relations towards settling regional conflicts through dialogue and the warmth and emerging tacit understanding

between Washington and Moscow. The developments since the signing of the historic intermediate range nuclear forces treaty between the U.S. and the Soviet Union last year has gone a long way in allaying European apprehensions over the "Soviet threat" which had made it imperative for Europe to look to its "big brother" across the Atlantic for protection. Furthermore, the seriousness with which the Soviet Union under Mikhail Gorbachev is pursuing efforts to settle regional conflicts — Afghanistan, Angola/Namibia, Kampuchea and others — appears to have convinced the Europeans of an irreversible trend in Soviet policies which bodes well for European security and stability.

The emerging scenario is simple on the surface; now that the European fears of the Soviet Union has considerably scaled down, Europe should break away from the American net and look at things in their right perspective. They should realise that they have been paying a high price in terms of their interests in the Middle East simply because they did not dare speak out against the all-out American support and hacking for Israel, which made the Zionist state look almost invincible. They should also accept the fact that they have been held to ransom by Israel's timely reminders of the "Nazi holocaust" and "European apathy" towards the Jews during World War II. It should no longer be natural that every European diplomat will be reluctant to approach this particular aspect since it has been the part of the system in Europe and everyone grew up with the built-in guilt mentality over what happened during the Nazi era (a reminder here by a European colleague that "It is not the done thing" in Europe to put "holocaust" between quotation marks only proves my point).

Of course, we cannot overlook the reality that the pronounced disarray in the Arab ranks did not help any in budging the Europeans to do more than issuing declarations on the Middle East so far. The breakthrough now is the firm Arab position behind the new Palestinian strategy for peace.

In a nutshell, the scene is indeed set for Europe to assume the leading role in pushing for peace in the Middle East. How realistically it goes about doing it is a different matter altogether.

For the pessimists, it is easy to foresee Europe launching a half-hearted attempt starting with initiating contacts with the key players in the region towards an international peace conference, only to be told to lay off by Washington and Israel. It is only conceivable that the U.S. could use a number of pressure points,

including trade and economic relations, to beat back the initiative while Israel will be rummaging through history files to wave new evidences of "European crimes against the Jews."

Experiences have shown that when it comes to direct European-Israeli contacts over peace, the Israelis always capitalised on "European guilt" of World War II and browbeat the Europeans with pointed reminders to the Nazi era. Will the Europeans be able to hold their ground this time around and counter forcefully that the security and stability of the same people of the "holocaust" now lie in a peaceful settlement rather than in military might and continued occupation of other people's lands, and, if anything, Europe will be doing them a favour in the long run by striving for a just and fair solution?

On the other side, one could easily detect dedication and seriousness behind the European move. The task that lies ahead of the Arabs is to strengthen these sentiments to the point that they could resist Israeli and American pressure to accept the Zionist way of things which does not entertain the idea of granting the Palestinians their legitimate rights. The fundamental element should be hammered home anew that the security and stability of the Middle East are closely linked with that of Europe, and the European responsibility for creating the Palestinian problem in the first place should not fade away in the glaring light of heavily-publicised World War II events, which, no doubt, will start raising new heads in the Western media soon enough.

We don't need to remind the statesmen in Europe whose diplomatic and experienced brains are behind the latest EEC drive for peace in the Middle East that every step along the way will be hard and dangers will be lurking round the corner. Clear objectives, perseverance, sense of justice and firm positions are the need of the day.

Having said that, the question that remains unanswered is: Is there a clear and attractive enough incentive for the Europeans to adopt a collision course with the U.S. and Israel? They have only themselves to ask who paid dear prices and absorbed spillovers of the violence in the Middle East and who stands to pay more if the situation is left unaddressed in a fair and just manner. There is little doubt that every initiative that does not produce fruitful results will only breed further extremism, strengthen the hand of hardliners and push the Middle East region into chaos and bloodshed and Europe cannot escape the fallout.

The writer is the political editor of the Jordan Times.

## 1988 — a good year for the Arabs

By Mariam Shahin

AMMAN — Gamaliya, a middle class neighbourhood of Cairo, has now come to be known as the home of "scribe of Egypt." Why? Simply because some seventy and seven years ago it gave birth to Naguib Mahfouz, the Arab World's only winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature.

When the Nobel committee announced in October this year that Mahfouz had won the coveted prize, the Arab World hailed him as a hero; now his Cairene compatriots feel he is approaching "pharaohism."

While the Arab press, literary circles and the educated and uneducated alike were swimming in xenophobia over the fact that the Nobel Prize for Mahfouz was the much belated recognition of Arabic literature, the Western press was pondering over what it saw as the "generous gesture" that the Nobel panel extended to the Arab cause in Palestine. To be fair to all, we will never know how far such considerations were behind the Nobel panel's decision this year (there are many people who cannot overlook what they see as the "none-too obvious" political considerations behind awarding the Nobel Peace Prize to dissident Andrei Sakharov of the Soviet Union and militant unionist Lech Walesa of Poland, according to this school of thought).

A paramount question emerges from the scenario surrounding Mahfouz and his Nobel Prize: Why the Arab World is hesitant to give itself credibility? Why does it wait for others to recognise it?

Others will only respect you, if you have self-respect, is the essence of an old proverb. But, it would seem that it remains only a memory as far as the Arab World is concerned.

The longer the Arabs continue to measure their society's success solely by what non-Arabs, more specifically the West, have to say about it, the stronger is the Arab World's amazingly negative view of its own image.

Again, though in no way a

universal phenomenon, the image problem that the Arabs have been exposed to is not exactly something that could be brushed aside. We do not have to look far for one of its root causes — the centuries-old conflict between Arab and Islam on the one hand and the West on the other. The situation has only worsened in the last two or three decades, what with the image of "Arab terrorists," "the snarling Arabs lunging at Israel," "the Christian-Muslim war in Lebanon," and "the senseless Arab-Persian bloodbath in the Gulf."

One has to admit that the situation is gradually undergoing a change that could easily be attributed inter alia to the Palestinian uprising — "the revolution of stones" — in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, the Iran-Iraq ceasefire, Mahfouz' Nobel Prize, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) recognition of Israel and the U.S. move to open a dialogue with the PLO after a 13-year hiatus. Somehow, the Arab World is emerging with a more "acceptable" status in the international arena as representing a people with age-old culture, traditions and values. Not that these factors were not in focus until now, but that only now the Western world is showing realistic signs of accepting them.

Self-confidence and persistence on the part of the Arabs were the key elements in bringing about this change, say some people. While the battle appeared to be one pitting the Arab World against the rest of the planet which somehow or the other seemed to be united in its "anti-Arabism," the Arabs sought to consolidate the uprising, Iraq's quest for peace, the existence of the PLO and, of course, Mahfouz as realities no-one could shoulder.

But, did the Arabs really impose anything on the international community? It was the children of the stones battling armed-to-the-teeth Israeli soldiers that roused the attention of the world and heralded the so-called "moderate" stand of the PLO and the U.S.-PLO dialogue. It was the realisation in Iran of the futility of the war that prompted a ceasefire in the eight-year conflict. And it was the quality of Mahfouz' writing that brought him the Nobel Prize.

Come to think of it, did any Arab lobby for Mahfouz? If anyone did, he or she deserves a Nobel Prize, if only because he or she had overcome one of the most fundamental barriers in the Arab World: lack of real interest and appreciation of Arab writers.

In any case 1988 has been good to us, we saw an end to the Iran-Iraq war, the stale continuity of the intifada, Mahfouz' prize, the PLO success in Geneva and, most promising of all, the leaders of the Arab World meeting in a friendly atmosphere, smiling after almost a decade of frowns. Our governments are opening their doors to each other, the rest of the world has opened one eye to us as well.

## Panama's strongman survives 1988

By Katherine King

Reuter

PANAMA CITY — Since talks between Washington and General Manuel Antonio Noriega on a deal for the Panamanian military leader to relinquish power collapsed last May, a jolt has made the rounds in Panama.

"Did you hear of Noriega and the White House have reached a deal?" it goes. "Reagan is going to step down in January."

The irony of a year of pointed U.S. and opposition pressure to oust Noriega and predictions his days were numbered is that the former U.S. ally has not only hung on but is considering whether to expand his power by running for president.

Speculation over Noriega's possible candidacy in the May 7 election is an obsession for some who scrutinise his every statement and action trying and determine what he will decide.

Under recently revised election laws, formal declarations for the presidency can be made as late as three months before the election, in this case Feb. 7. Previously

"He has everything set up to either run himself or float a candidate loyal to him. He could easily go either way," said one foreigner who has lived in Panama for over a decade.

"But he has it all now, why would he want the presidency?" he said.

Panamanians opposed to Noriega and the military-backed government say that Noriega would not win an election.

Several members of the ruling Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) have said publicly Noriega would be the best candidate but quickly add the general will be divided.

A recent public opinion poll, carried out in November by an Italian polling company, says Noriega is one of the best known figures in Panama but also one of

the least popular.

The poll, distributed here by the opposition Christian Democratic Party (PDC), was commissioned by a private Venezuelan group said to have ties to the opposition.

But several diplomatic and Panamanian sources said that despite his reported unpopularity, Noriega or another military-backed candidate might have a chance at winning because the opposition political parties have become so divided.

In three opposition parties, the Liberal Party, the Republican Party and the authentic Panamanian Party, factions have splintered off from the main group. The Panamanian Party, the

largest and strongest of the opposition parties whose long-time leader Arnulfo Arias Madrid died last August, is in the midst of a split that has led to a bitter power struggle for leadership.

One faction headed by party secretary Guillermo Endara and party Vice President Jorge Pacifico Adames claim the party is being "stolen" from them by Hildebrando Nicasio, the party's general secretary who broke with Arias Madrid in 1984 but retained his title.

Nicasio has moved to "eject" the Endara faction from the party. Endara has in turn ordered Nicasio's ejection from the party.

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The Panamanian Party, the

## Yugoslavia considers multi-party system

By Vjekoslav Radovic

Reuter

BELGRADE — Communist Yugoslavia is searching its soul over a possible switch to a multi-party system.

An economic crisis in Yugoslavia itself and liberal trends in the Soviet Bloc have fuelled a debate on the subject which has spread into the ranks of the ruling Communist Party.

Even now, Yugoslavia sometimes seems to have more than one party as the Communist parties of each republic and province seldom seem to agree, and often quarrel publicly with each other.

"The only problem is they are all Communist parties and there is no real opposition across ideological lines," said a Yugoslav analyst.

Such fears have been sharpened this year by growing ethnic strife between Serbs and ethnic

## EN BREF

### Moroc-Polisario: l'éclaircie

Les rebelles sahraouis du Front Polisario devaient renouer mercredi à Marrakech avec le roi Hassan II du Maroc, auquel le conflit du Sahara occidental les oppose depuis 13 ans. C'est la première fois depuis le début du conflit que les deux parties en présence acceptent de discuter. Selon des diplomates à Rabat, les entretiens devraient porter sur le plan de paix des Nations-Unies sur ce territoire situé aux frontières du Maroc, de l'Algérie et de la Mauritanie. Ce plan avait été élaboré par Javier Pérez de Cuellar en 1987 à la suite d'une mission des Nations-Unies sur les lieux du conflit. Les deux parties l'avaient accepté en août de la même année. Il prévoit un cessez-le-feu suivi d'un référendum par lequel la population nomade du Sahara occidental pourra choisir l'indépendance ou le rattachement au Maroc, qui a toujours revendiqué sa souveraineté sur ce territoire — riche en matières premières — depuis le retrait des Espagnols en 1977. "Je suis prêt à discuter, mais pas négocier", a diplomatiquement répondu Hassan II dans une interview au journal *Le Point*. (d'après J.T.)

### Amal-Hizbollah: reprise des combats

Près de 30 personnes ont déjà trouvé la mort au cours des combats qui, depuis une semaine, font de nouveau rage entre les milices pro-syrienne Amal et pro-française Hezbollah, à Beyrouth et au Sud-Liban. Les combats ont repris lundi dans le Sud, moins d'une heure après un fragile cessez-le-feu imposé par les Syriens dans la capitale. "Dès que les Syriens ont le dos tourné, ils reconnaissent à se battre", a déclaré une habitante de la banlieue-Sud, où les combats entre les deux milices avaient déjà fait près de 600 morts en avril. Dans le Sud, dont Amal avait pratiquement chassé le Hezbollah en avril, la milice pro-syrienne s'en prend aux derniers bastions des "fous de Dieu". Selon les observateurs, cette nouvelle flambée fait suite à un accord Amal-OLP, selon lequel les Palestiniens cesseront leur soutien au Hezbollah. Près de 1.500 personnes sont décédées de mort violente en 1988 au Liban. (d'après Reuter)

### Gouvernement israélien: escarmouches

Le ministre des finances israélien, Shimon Peres, s'est attiré les foudres de ses collègues du Likoud et même certains travailleurs en proposant mardi son plan d'austérité budgétaire pour juguler l'inflation. Cible des critiques: la réduction des dépenses militaires de 200 millions de dollars. La semaine dernière, le gouvernement a dévalué le Shekel de 13%. Israël connaît actuellement une pire récession depuis 1982. (agences)

### 13 palestiniens expulsés

Les autorités israéliennes ont expulsé le 18 janvier vers le Liban 13 Palestiniens suspectés d'appartenir à la direction clandestine du soulèvement.

### Bourse d'Amman: activité en hausse

La bourse d'Amman a enregistré en 1988 une hausse de 12,2% du nombre des titres échangés par rapport à l'année précédente. En revanche, la valeur moyenne quotidienne en dinars de ces échanges a marqué le pas de 13% par rapport à 1987. (J.T.)

### Ambassade de Palestine à Riyad

Yasser Arafat a hissé le 1er janvier le drapeau palestinien sur l'ambassade de Palestine à Riyad. L'immeuble, dont la construction a coûté 5 millions de dollars, a été offert par le gouvernement saoudien. Riyad a annoncé que la représentation de l'OLP en Arabie saoudite jouissait désormais du statut diplomatique et que son directeur, Rafik Natsbeh, devrait de ce fait ambassadeur de Palestine. Deux autres ambassades sont en construction à Al-ger et Bagdad.

### Vous écrivez?

Le Jourdain recherche des collaborateurs en freelance, avec des idées originales d'enquêtes et de reportages. Anglais accepté. Contacter François Duroc au Jordan Times, 664171.

### Le Saviez-vous?

#### Echange standart

Lors de la clôture du Conseil national palestinien d'Alger, en novembre dernier, Yasser Arafat s'adresse à un journaliste libanais: "Vous avez un territoire sans président, et nous avons un président sans territoire. Que dites-vous d'un échange?"



Priorité à la production nationale et à l'exportation

Budget en baisse, austérité

### 1989: produire d'abord

Le budget 1989, présenté le 31 décembre par le Cabinet, se monte à 1.035 dinars, soit une baisse en valeur absolue de 40 millions de dinars par rapport à l'an passé. Austerité oblige, l'Etat ne financera pas cette année de nouveaux services et infrastructures, concentrant son effort sur les activités productives. Défense et service de la dette sont en tête des chapitres budgétaires.

Les revenus de l'Etat sont estimés à 913,2 millions de dinars pour l'exercice 1989 (taxes, droits de douanes, aide étrangère et emprunts). Le déficit prévisionnel se monte donc à 122,2 millions de dinars, contre 69,9 millions en 1988. Selon le Cabinet, il devrait être couvert par des économies sur les dépenses publiques, une amélioration des revenus nationaux et des emprunts intérieurs et extérieurs.

Selon le ministre des finances, Hanna Odeh, le gouvernement s'en tiendra strictement aux prévisions du budget. Il n'y aura pas de dépenses consacrées à de nouveaux services et infrastructures, et le gouvernement n'empruntera pas d'argent pour financer des projets non productifs, a-t-il ajouté. M. Odeh a précisé que la dépense publique visera à augmenter la production nationale et à réduire le déficit budgétaire, afin d'accroître l'autosuffisance du pays.

"La Jordanie a surmonté la

#### Menu 1989 ( principaux chapitres)

Défense et sécurité: .....	251 millions de JD (256 en 1988)
Service de la dette: .....	207,7 millions (177,7 en 1988)
Développement économique: .....	154,4 millions (256,1 en 1988)
Services sociaux: .....	118 millions (142,4 en 1988)
Total dépenses: .....	1,035 milliard (1,075 en 1988)
Déficit prévisionnel: .....	122,2 millions (69,9 millions en 1988)

### Serrez votre ceinture

A partir du 18 janvier, le port de la ceinture sera rendu obligatoire pour les passagers avant de tous les véhicules, quelle que soit leur vitesse, en ville comme sur les routes.

De 1970 à fin 1987, on a rencontré 177.126 accidents de la route en Jordanie, qui ont coûté la vie à 6.598 personnes et en ont blessé 103.780, selon le directeur du Département de la circulation routière.

1985 a été une année noire, avec un record de 524 morts et 9.100 blessés. Ces chiffres ont été révélés à l'occasion d'un séminaire consacré au port de la ceinture de sécurité, dont le gouvernement veut rendre l'usage obligatoire dans tous les véhicules à partir de ce mois-ci. La loi obligeant l'automobiliste à porter la ceinture date de 1983. Mais depuis, des amendements avaient notamment autorisé les automobilistes à rouler sans ceinture, à la une, à la moitié, qui sont souvent responsables de comas. (d'après Petra.)

Le ministre de la santé, Zuhair Malhas, a estimé que mieux vaut prévenir que guérir et que le port de la ceinture économise des vies et des dépenses hospitalières. Il a mis en évidence que l'usage ait des effets néfastes sur les femmes enceintes et a souligné qu'il protégeait les enfants à 100%. Par ailleurs, il a précisé que la ceinture évitait les blessures à la tête et à la moitié, qui sont souvent responsables de comas. (d'après Petra.)

Ils trouvent de moins en moins des postes à l'étranger

### Chômeurs: retour à l'envoyeur



Beaucoup de diplômés, peu de débouchés en Jordanie

Le chômage, estimé entre 10 et 17% de la population active, atteint un seuil critique en Jordanie. Si la crise internationale y est pour quelque chose, la structure même de l'économie nationale ne favorise pas l'embauche des demandeurs d'emploi.

Combien sont-ils? Officiellement, le taux de chômage en Jordanie a récemment été estimé à 10% environ de la population active. La Fédération générale des travailleurs jordaniens a avancé le 17 août dernier le chiffre de 12%, par la voix de son Secrétaire général, Sami Kardan. Certains vont plus loin: Fahed Al-Fanek, économiste et chroniqueur au Rai, a évalué dans une conférence donnée en octobre le taux de chômage à 16% de la population active. En septembre 1987 déjà, Jawad Anani, président de l'Association scientifique royale, avançait 17%.

Si les chiffres divergent, les analystes sont d'accord: le chômage a atteint en Jordanie un seuil critique. Témoin la conférence organisée sur ce thème le mois dernier par l'université du Yarmouk, présidée par le Prince Hassan.

Le chômage n'est pas un fait nouveau dans le pays. Les responsables expliquent le phénomène

### Prochaine tournée au Proche-Orient

### CEE: objectif paix

La Communauté économique européenne (CEE) doit engager prochainement une initiative de paix au Proche-Orient, qui devrait se traduire par une tournée dans les sept pays concernés par le conflit.

L'objectif numéro un de cette initiative est la promotion d'une conférence internationale de paix sous les auspices des Nations-Unies. Une idée qui, pour l'instant, se heurte à une opposition farouche en Israël.

Le premier ministre espagnol et président en exercice de la CEE pour six mois depuis le 1er janvier, Felipe Gonzalez, a indiqué lundi que le dossier du Proche-Orient constituera l'un des principaux objectifs de son pays en matière de politique étrangère. L'Espagne a succédé à la Grèce à la présidence de la CEE. C'est la première fois depuis son adhésion à la communauté en janvier 1986 que Madrid exerce cette fonction. La

France la relaiera à ce poste pour les six mois suivants.

Les Douze avaient annoncé le 19 décembre leur intention d'engager des contacts avec les parties concernées par le conflit proche-oriental. A cet effet, une "troïka" avait été désignée pour mener à bien cette mission, composée des chefs de la diplomatie française, espagnole et grecque. Ils représenteront la CEE devant Israël, les Etats-Unis et l'OLP notamment.

Fernandez Ordonez, le ministre des Affaires étrangères espagnol, a affirmé que 1989 "pourrait être l'année du déblocage" de la situation au Proche-Orient. Durant la présidence espagnole, les douze joueront un rôle de stimulant, de contact et de persuasion", a-t-il indiqué.

Le ministre s'est entretenu le 2 décembre à Paris avec son homologue français, Roland Dumas. "Nous voulons commencer à travailler (sur l'initiative de paix) immédiatement. Nous avons

décidé une série de visites dans les sept pays concernés", a déclaré M. Ordonez à l'issue de ces entretiens. Il n'a pas précisé les noms de ces pays. Le chef de la diplomatie espagnole, qui venait d'une visite en Egypte, a en outre estimé qu'Israël changerait sa position concernant la conférence internationale, toutes les autres alternatives ayant été épuisées.

M. Ordonez a indiqué qu'un premier rapport serait présenté en février à Madrid lors d'une conférence des ministres des affaires étrangères de la communauté.

Par ailleurs, selon un porte-parole de l'OLP, Yasser Arafat pourrait se rendre à Madrid en janvier pour des entretiens avec MM. Gonzalez et Ordonez. Au centre de ces discussions, la conférence internationale et la création d'un Etat palestinien, immédiatement. (agences)

### Israël prêt à s'isoler

Le ministre des Affaires étrangères israélien, Moshe Arens, a déploré mardi que les pays européens ne consultent pas Israël sur les initiatives de paix au Proche-Orient. Il a ajouté que l'Etat hébreu était prêt à assumer son isolement du monde afin de préserver sa sécurité.

Le nouveau chef de la diplomatie a déclaré qu'une telle démarche mettrait en danger la sécurité de son pays. Il a également critiqué le dialogue Etats-Unis-OLP, jugeant qu'il faisait du tort à la lutte contre le "terrorisme international".

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Le nouveau chef de la diplomatie a déclaré qu'une t

## Kenyans take to traditional medicine

By Wona Akute

**Traditional medicine is becoming fashionable in Kenyan cities. But thousands of the plants from which the medicines are extracted are endangered by land clearance.**

NAIROBI — Njeri Kamau, a 35-year-old accountant in Nairobi, consults a traditional healer when conventional medicine has failed her. When she went to Dr. Githae after suffering from sinusitis for ten years, it was as a last resort.

He gave her a brown powder to boil in water for five minutes and to be taken twice daily before and after meals. Njeri's symptoms cleared after only two days, and now she uses the powder whenever she needs it.

"I hate taking anti-allergy drugs — mainly antihistamines and antibiotics — which make me feel nauseous, drowsy and lethargic," she said. "The brown powder is bitter, but at least it has no side-effects."

Western medicine may still get the lion's share of resources in most developing countries — but traditional, herbal medicines are becoming popular in Kenya again, paradoxically, at the very time that the plants from which the medicines are becoming popular in Kenya again, paradoxically, at the very time that the plants from which the medicines are extracted are becoming rare.

Throughout Africa, thousands of tropical plants have been found to have potential economic uses as food, drugs, pesticides and industrial raw materials. Medical researchers acknowledge that more than half the world's medicines have their origins in nature — and that a quarter come from tropical forests.

Conservationists and herbalists, however, now fear that this potential could be lost as useful varieties of plants are destroyed through rapid development.

Githae estimates that 10,000 species of medicinal plant are endangered as people rapidly clear brush and forest for cultivation, settlement, timber and firewood.

Some 70% of the rural population still depends largely on traditional medicine, but the new twist is its fashionability in the cities.

A leading Kenyan traditional healer, Dr. John Githae, might see up to 400 patients in his Nairobi clinic on Sundays alone — and this may include people from neighbouring Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Zambia and Burundi.

In an analysis of 21,000 patients who came to the clinic over a one-year-period, Dr. Githae and colleagues found that the majority were cases of asthma, bronchitis, hypertension, epilepsy, paralysis, ulcers, sexually-transmitted diseases and infertility.

Treatments were most effective in diabetic, liver and spleen conditions, according to the herbalists. They claimed that over 80% of the patients who had had hospital treatment for diabetes said they no longer needed medicine after following a prescribed dietary and herbal regime.

The clinic's herbalists work closely with conventional health workers, and only prescribe herbs that won't react against the pharmaceutical drugs the patients already take.

They do this because many patients — like Njeri Kamau — prefer to hedge their bets between modern and traditional medicine. She still takes her two children to a doctor in a modern health clinic, only resorting to herbalists if they fail.

According to a survey, Njeri is among a third of Kenya's population of 22 million who believe both in traditional and modern medicine. Another third seek tra-

ditional healers only, while the rest only accept treatment from modern medicine.

Githae says cost and culture account for the renewed faith in traditional medicine. Herbal cures are cheap compared to pharmaceutical drugs — and they appeal to people's cultural heritage.

The colonial period unfairly discredited traditional healers in the Third World as sorcerers, witches or magicians, argues Githae. In fact the healers were traditionally esteemed as doctors, priests and prophets within their communities.

Their periods of training ranged up to 30 years, as they had to serve as apprentices to elderly practising herbalists before they could prescribe herbs on their own.

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A prince, a physician and his assistant, from a 13th-century Arab medical treatise.

The practice of medicine in Islam always has been guided by the principle that good physical health will lead to wholesome living in the ideal triune of body, mind and spirit that the religion of Islam embodies.

Since the earliest days of Muslim civilisation, this basic precept

has given the professions of medicine and pharmacy an important position of dignity and value. Islam's first medical practitioners and scholars, for example, were provided with ample opportunity to study and work. Thus, many were able to realise the full potential of their genius and, in

## The ideal tribune of body, mind and spirit

This is the first of a three part article on Arab Islamic Medicine and Public Health written by Dr. Sami K. Hamameh, who is a professor in the School of Public Health at Yarmouk University in Jordan.

### Curing the spirit

In this regard, Islamic medicine was more concerned and involved in his society, its affairs and the issues of everyday living than was his Greek predecessor. He practiced his career with devotion, and applied his clinical and professional procedures with circumspection. His academic training was made available, by and large, without cost or at a nominal fee. Libraries and books were accessible. Intelligent, industrious students from any class of society had access to public or private institutions that provided support, guidance and assistance. They found encouragement and fulfillment in completing their studies, and in carrying out their professional duties and responsibilities.

The health professions were maintained and flourished at a high level largely due to the interest and generous patronage of the Muslim caliphs and other notables of Islamic society. Wisely, they encouraged the preservation of the best of the Greco-Roman and Eastern legacies of knowledge. They established educational centres, which included libraries, hospitals, medical schools and botanical gardens. Associated with physicians were artisans and professionals of talent in many fields, who helped carry forward the advancing frontiers of medicine during the golden age of Islam.

The healing arts in Islam were taught in three types of schools or colleges:

- (1) Private tutoring of one or more pupils, under the immediate and direct supervision of a master teacher, being himself a physician or other medical professional.
- (2) Privately-operated colleges,

often founded by eminent and highly reputed physician-educators.

(3) Public colleges, with seminar halls and libraries often connected to hospitals that were operated, directed and supported by the state. Here, practical apprenticeship, bedside diagnosis and clinical observations were conducted.

Significantly, it was in Islam that hospitals, in the true modern sense of the word, were fashioned, following the Jund-Shapur pattern. Supported by generous endowments from state and philanthropic sources, well-equipped hospitals were organised, which included special wards for both male and female patients, whether poor or rich.

### Hospitals created

In previous cultures, priests and clergy had cared for the sick in temples, hospices or lodging houses. Under Islam, for the first time in medical history, hospitals were established in Persia and Iraq and directed and administered by lay physicians and staff members. All management was secular. Discrimination, regardless of creed, ethnic or class affiliations, was forbidden. Staff appointments were made based on competence and qualifications.

In these hospitals were various wards, some designated for medical or surgical patients, others reserved for the mentally ill, and still others for patients with diverse fevers and contagious or serious diseases. Even

the construction of the hospitals followed specific plans regarding architecture, location, and divisional regulations and designs.

What of hospital administration and rules of conduct? It is recorded that when patients were admitted, their names, addresses, age and case history were entered in a registry. Special clothing was provided by the hospital, and the patient's personal garments, valuables and other belongings were kept in safe boxes until dismissal. Care and treatment were directed towards the human being as a whole person, and not as a name with tests and analyses recorded in a ledger.

In the leading hospitals of many great cities, medical teaching and professional activities combined theoretical and practical training. Consultations and dialogues were held in lecture halls and libraries. Doctors came from near and far — to Cairo, Baghdad or other centres to further their education and gain firsthand experience that would enable them to practice at a higher level of competence. Such centres were referred to, even then, as belonging to "the good old days" when there were round-the-clock hospitals, with bedside care for patients, and afterwards, the gathering of eminent doctors for discussions and consultations.

Special hospitals also were founded to serve the military and their families in peace and war, with special quarters in the battlefield compound or at circles staffed by able physicians.

### Cultural change needed to compete with No. 1

## Japan strives to improve basic scientific research

By Linda Sieg  
Reuter

TOKYO — Japan is out to reform its scientific research establishment into one that produces Nobel Prize winners, not just profits.

After years of striving to catch up with the West, Japanese scientists are convinced their industrial technology now ranks with the best, a government report, published recently said.

"Until now, we had a system aimed at catching up with levels in the U.S. and Europe," said Yoshio Miki, Director of the Policy Research Division of the Government's Science and Technology Agency. "Now we have more or less caught up."

"But as far as basic science is concerned, Japan cannot be counted as having the highest level of technology in the world," he told reporters before the release of the agency's 1988 policy document last week.

Githae recommends agro-forestry that will intercrop crops together with medicinal plants, and calls for an alternative source of firewood to counter the indiscriminate felling of medicinal trees — Panos.

What troubles them is the realisation that the very system that helped them catch up in applied technology is ill-suited to achieving ground-breaking scientific discoveries.

One of the most outspoken critics of that environment has been Susumu Tonegawa, a molecular-biology professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and winner of last year's Nobel Prize for Medicine. One of only five Japanese scientists to win a Nobel Prize,

up, the social system emphasised bringing people together in a group to achieve the goal more than individual ability.

"Now we don't have such a goal, and we have to do research on our own. So we need a system which mobilises individual capabilities. We need a more flexible system."

### Hierarchy stifles

Japanese research laboratories, whether private, government or university, remain tightly bound by hierarchy, seniority and a group ethic, not the best environment to nurture Nobel Prize winners, experts say.

"U.S. companies have to look at the immediate bottom line, and except for special cases like AT and T (American Telephone and Telegraph) and IBM (International Business Machines), they aren't spending so much on basic research," said Yoshio

Tonegawa has said he left Japan in 1963 to escape its stifling research system.

"Tonegawa says Japan's system is not a merit system, it's a seniority system," said Howell Hammond, Director of Research and Development at Kodak Japan. "A young person has no opportunity to carry out independent research. He's a cog in a wheel, until he serves his time."

Some private corporations that have recently set up their own basic-research institutes hope to change that. Given their capacity to budget for the long term, private companies may be poised for significant ground-breaking work, some experts say.

"U.S. companies have to look at the immediate bottom line, and except for special cases like AT and T (American Telephone and Telegraph) and IBM (International Business Machines), they aren't spending so much on basic research," said Yoshio

Nishimura, editor-in-chief of Nikkei Electronics Magazine.

"Japanese companies are used to taking the long-term view."

### Universities resist reform

But Japan's universities, where basic research lags far behind that of their Western counterparts, are likely to be more resistant to reform.

Japanese universities have traditionally viewed their primary task as education rather than research and have disdained accepting funds from the private sector.

"Universities have been completely shunted off from both corporate and national policy," Miki said.

"Universities are not interested in collaborating directly (with industry)," said Raul Mendez, Director of the private Institute for Supercomputing Research.

Unlike in the United States and Europe where graduate students

are the work horses of basic research, Japan's graduate students are few in number and underfunded. Nor are companies keen to hire them.

"All Japanese society expects

of universities is that they produce an adequate level of students. After that companies will train them themselves," Nishi-

mura said.

In the end, reform of the re-

search environment alone is unlikely to suffice to foster scientific creativity.

"It starts way back in grammar school where kids are taught not to interrupt the teacher, but to sit and listen," Hammond said. "It will require a basic cultural change."

**Jordan Times**  
**Tel: 667171-6**



In 1938, nuclear physicist Otto Hahn, (left), first split the atom. His colleague of many years Lise Meitner (right) (Photo DaD/AP)

pensed with the electric charge of his neutrons. All electrically charged neutrons were repelled by a shield consisting of the powers of attraction of negative and positive components of the atom.

The uncharged neutron had free access, so to say. As Irene Joliot-Curie later explained, the movement of the captive neutron in the atomic nucleus grows steadily more violent. The nucleus is elongated, forms a kind of waist in its midriff and bursts into two nuclei of equal size that repel each other and break apart at great speed. The energy liberated in the process was dreadfully demonstrated seven years later when the first atomic bomb was dropped in Hiroshima.

Edward Teller in America perfected nuclear fission for military use. The devastating effect of the atomic bomb is based on extra neutrons that trigger a chain reaction being released when the ura-



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## Women's lib? or a fight for all?

By Mariana M. Shalabi

**SPECIAL TO THE JORDAN TIMES** — Women in almost every traditional culture are taught to rely on men to represent their interests in every sphere of daily life, including medical care, legal representation and financial and social affairs.

Some women's movements work exclusively on women's issues, as is the case in the school of thought led by Dr. Nawal Al Saadoun of Egypt. The other major school of thought tends to view the "liberation of society" as a pre-requisite, or "women's liberation" per se. Suppression of women and their rights is viewed as a result of the structure of economy and society which oppresses both men and women.

Several Jordanian women, who have chosen "their way," recently spoke to the Jordan Times and discussed how they view the existing women's liberation movements and assess their personal experiences in the professional sector, and their families' reactions to the way of life they have chosen.

It is a relatively common perception in the Middle East and perhaps elsewhere that in the West, "women are liberated" and "free." One of the connotations given to "liberation" is that along with the easing of educational and social barriers comes the opening of the professional sector for women.

It is far from accurate to say that women in the West — let us define it simply as the Western hemisphere for the sake of practicality — receive an "equal foot-ing" treatment in the professional sector with men.

Consider Switzerland, where women, supposedly by their own choices, were not able to vote in federal elections until 1971 and till today not all cantons allow women to vote in municipal elections. Consider that Britain's Margaret Thatcher is often seen as a novelty because she is a female head of government. Consider that women in influential or directorial positions in the West have been portrayed in the Western press as psychologically different from others, either idolisers of strong fathers or despisers of weak mothers.

"Even in the 'liberated' world, women are by no means proportionately represented in any of the so-called professional sectors," says Asma Khadra, an Amman-based lawyer, who has been practising her profession for the last ten years. "It is unreasonable to think that women in the West have 'made it,' because once you have 'the job' that's where the really

tough part begins," says Khadra. "In the West that's where women are getting to. We, in the Middle East are still working on the idea of having a man understand that we actually enjoy and want to work outside the home. And that we could possibly know something they don't."

"Universally women have one struggle, not as women but as people. In some cases women have gone to extremes, only to realise that the domination of one means the oppression of another. This is basically what happened in the women's lib movement in the United States. It went to an extreme in order to find the middle road. I don't think this is unhealthy. It is sometimes the course of nature. Cavemen had to feel the heat of the fire before they realised it could hurt them."

In the same vein, says Leila Sharaf, the second woman in Jordan's history to become a minister, "women in the U.S. made their point, thus creating the spark for change."

Butheina Jardaneh, director of the Federation of Business and Professional Women in Jordan, firmly believes that "the problems that men and women have are basically the same. It is a matter of education, guidance and counselling as well as mentality, which is usually an outcome of a combination of those factors. In the West men have become more accustomed to dealing with what is called 'domestic chores' or a 'woman's duties.' That includes reading bedtime stories to the children and vacuuming. In our part of the world this is still considered a 'shame,' and as long as these inhibitions and rigidly defined roles remain neither men nor women will be 'liberated,' either socially or professionally."

So where do we differ with women's liberation in the West? We differ with men's liberation. They are two sides of the same coin, incapable of existing without the other."

"Industrialisation has made the woman's role in the workforce and the professional sector an economic and practical necessity," says Muawia Bakri, president of the Arab Women's Graduate Club. "In Britain, industrialisation began in the last century heralding a dramatic change in the role of women. Today women in Britain and in other industrialised nations are still searching for the right formula, that enables men and women to interact according to their chosen interests and talents rather than defined roles which are decided by their gender. Men and women in semi-industrialised or developing countries should take a close look at the experi-



ences that people in the West in particular have gone through and try to avoid the less desirable of those experiences. Basically, we in the Middle East should learn from the mistakes of others rather than repeat them."

### The family, the husband

"Women who grew up in a home where education for girls was encouraged had a definite advantage over those who were denied that privilege, and thirty years ago that was a very real privilege. My mother had received an education and therefore it was only natural to my parents that I should get an education as well. The man whose mother or sisters have

received an education and work is also much more receptive to the concept of a 'professional woman.' Jardaneh, who has been a working woman for the last thirty years, says she realises that "we, the Arab women, have changed, or rather the roles we have chosen for ourselves have changed, but our men, my husband included, have not changed their ideas of our roles or theirs. Although I have not been the leader of any great rebellion in my home, I believe all women must raise their daughters and sons to be cooperative so that the next generation will not face the same difficulties we did in handling a home and a family."

Muawia Bakri, who is a native of Irbid, is the first woman to

receive a doctorate degree in medical science in her home town. Her family's tradition of education most certainly played a central role in her being sent to Damascus to further her education at the age of eleven. Bakri recalls, "at that time schooling for girls stopped at the primary level in Irbid, so my parents sent me to my uncle in Damascus to finish school. Although I was a boarding student, I saw a lot of my uncle, who was a doctor and decided that the best way for me to serve my people was to become a doctor. Not all of my family were happy with the idea that I wanted to spend so many years studying, but I insisted and the family had to accept. Once I finished my studies I came back to Amman, took a job in a private hospital and got married. My husband was and has always been supportive of my career. He respects me and values my work a great deal. I don't believe that a married woman can be at ease and fully productive if she has a nagging husband, who is jealous or simply insensitive to her career."

Bakri, mother of two boys, points out that a working wife and mother cannot 'have it all'. Of course if you work till two or three in the afternoon you cannot go to tea parties or play bridge after lunch. The working mother cannot, responsibly, forget that she has children. Everyday after work I spent the entire time with my children, until it was time for them to go to bed. I often think that although the actual number of hours I spent with my kids is less than other mothers, they were intense and the human value stories I brought home from my job allowed for a very special mother child relationship. Both my husband and children are proud that I help others live better lives."

Not all working women have the full support of their families. Asma Khadra, whose job as lawyer often requires her to work very irregular hours, confided that, "my kids don't always appreciate my long hours, they want to see more of me. The sacrifices one has to make in personal life are not always very comfortable. The choice remains with the woman."

Leila Sharaf became an advocate of working women long before she started working. "When I would encourage women, who wanted to accomplish something against their families' wishes, my late husband would teasingly say to me 'your telling them to revolt, my dear, your going to create an uproar, please continue.'



Jürgen Rüttgers (left), a German Bundestag deputy who specialises in high tech. research, advocates greater German space involvement. On the right:



German scientists from Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm (MBB) involved in the U.S.-German space project "Galileo" (Photo INP/dpa)

## The space challenge

**COLOGNE** (INP) — What is more essential: space travel or micro chips? This question which is discussed at length in expert circles whenever profitability or priority is at stake was answered by Dr. Jürgen Rüttgers, a Bundestag deputy belonging to the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and a specialist on the high tech. sector with a commitment to both major projects. It has also been decided that the Federal Republic of Germany will participate in the construction of the "Ariane" carrier rocket and the European space shuttle "Hermes", which will take men and a payload up into space as well as the "Columbus" space station — contributing more than 20 billion DM up until the year 2000.

During a discussion on space travel organised by the "Karl Arnold Foundation" in Cologne, Jürgen Rüttgers had this to say: "The planned German space agency, the revamping of the German aerospace industry and a well-grounded national space programme are intended to strengthen the Federal Republic of Germany's competence and thus secure the success of this policy." The Bonn parliamentarian went on to say that European-American cooperation will be more than a "state venture." Within the bounds of such cooperation, German research accepted the challenge of international competition, which will be even tougher in future. Rüttgers

called for a strong German space policy; for Tokio — as well as the two super-powers — were involved to a far greater extent than Bonn in space travel.

The member countries of the European Space Agency (ESA) — including the Federal Republic of Germany — have already given the signal for intensifying European space travel. The West European's target is to establish themselves in future as an autonomous "third force" in space alongside the USA and the USSR. The German Minister for Research, Heinz Riesenhuber, said recently that "the basic decision in favour of the ESA major projects has been taken and we are on the brink of a new European space initiative, which will also provide a new impulse for the aerospace industry in the individual countries."

The bulk of the financing and technical realisation of the ESA programme will be taken over by France, the Federal Republic of Germany and Italy. The German aerospace industry is bent on achieving further objectives after successful involvement in manned space travel. Together with its European partners, it wants to make Western Europe independent of foreign transport systems. It is intended to achieve the same sort of basis for manned space travel as was achieved with the Ariane carrier rocket for satellite transport. Only in this way, will it be possible to follow up the experiments under weightlessness

which were started in the American space laboratory — with lengthy series of tests.

European industry must be interested in laboratories as well as at some later point, production plants in space as commercially utilisable results are obtained say in material research, pharmaceuticals and earth observation. A European space station will also be needed in future as a basis for satellite and sonde maintenance or as a starting point for missions to far-off planets.

The German institutions and companies involved in space research advocate central management: this is provided by the German Research and Test Centre for Aerospace (DFVLR) based at Cologne-Porz and Oberpfaffenhofen in Bavaria. It is an essential element of the "German NASA". Scientific principles are worked out in Cologne and astronauts — including some from other countries — trained. In Oberpfaffenhofen, the emphasis is placed on the future economic exploitation of the experiments carried out in space. In accordance with the U.S. model, the idea is now to interest companies from the chemical, pharmaceutical, medical-technical and material sectors in playing a more active part — this also means contributing to the costs — here in the Federal Republic of Germany.

In-Press

But shoes did not just indicate the social status of men. They also became an indispensable part of current fashion and, of course, a means of attracting the opposite sex.

One of the most famous legendary shoes is Cinderella's. The agony women had to go through in the 16th and 17th centuries because of their desire to wear dainty shoes like those of Cinderella is as unbelievable as the fairy-tale itself. The fashion came to a point where ladies with extremely high-heeled, narrow shoes had to use a cane and walk by leaning on their male escort.

As in the past, shoes today are an important part of a woman's effort to make herself attractive. In some areas they are also used to convey messages. Shoes thrown in the arena at the end of a bull-fight in Spain are signs of admiration for the victorious matador.

Paul Weber, director of the Bally Shoe Museum, in an interview said so much fuse is made about the human feet and ways of covering them "because people are linked to life by their feet."

According to him, the shoe-shaped ritual vessels originating in ancient Middle East, Mexico and Rome indicate the system of thought and belief of primitive man. Within his feet and footwear the primitive being trod not only the soil of this earth but also endeavoured to seek communion with the spirits that threatened or protected him. "To the shoe he ascribed the power to change the spirit of wrathful, vindictive gods," says Weber.

But, as for an answer to the question of whether a had corn or sore feet should be ascribed to furious peers or poor manufac-ture, wait for the second shoe to drop. — Academic File.



1640 and ladies shoes from England and France, circa 1700

## The culture of shoes

**The first shoes worn by man were not intended so much to protect the wearer as to show off his status. Although protection from the elements is now the prime purpose of footwear the desire to display wealth or status remains strong.**

By Lale Filoglu

**Istanbul** — Life, says old wisdom, enters through the feet and spreads to the whole body. But the shoes you wear will affect the life you lead. Unconvincing perhaps in today's lifestyles that feature smart suits with sneakers, and men's shows in a swimming pool and a gymnasium.

The clothes best express themselves in movement. The "A Un" and women's shows in the 1970s, Miyake established the idea of a fashion show as a piece of art/theater. An audience of 15,000 over six days saw Issey Miyake and Twelve Black Girls in Osaka in 1976.

Show in Paris have included modernistic American dancers at the Pompidou centre, their bodies slithering across a well-lit floor, and men's shows in a swimming pool and a gymnasium.

"I don't think that I can tell you what part of my design is Japanese," he says. "It is a very delicate thing. I was brought up in Japan. I will also live here in Paris, but automatically I am different from the French. Yet design is for human beings, not for nationalities. I work for all people. The European influence over culture is the main thing in fashion. The other is 'ethnic'."

Issey Miyake designs are, in the main, neither extraordinary nor unwearable. In the various price tiers and fashion ranges, sold in his own boutiques and

and others from the Turkish museum.

How were people's feet 3,000 years ago? Did many people complain of corns? How did they protect their feet from the ground? These questions to mind and enabled the viewer to follow the evolution of shoes over the years.

Although shoes in some period were used for comfort, they in reality always represented aesthetics and social status. The fact that until about 1600 flat and large shoes were in demand may indicate that not many people then complained of corns.

Japanese experts confirm this.

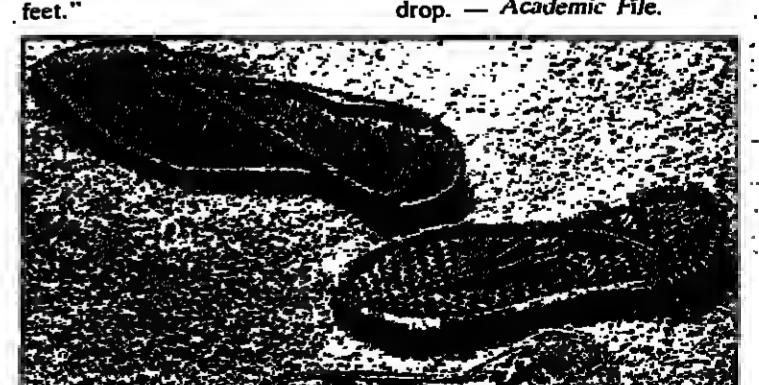
"When the European shoe was introduced to Japan, the need for orthopaedists in Japan increased," says one orthopaedist.

But the human kind's fastidiousness about feet is legion, with or without quoting the questionable example of former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos. This was all too clear in a footwear exhibition held recently at Istanbul's Museum of Turkish and Islamic Art.

"And I admire Yves Saint Laurent because he works so hard," he says. "I put a photograph of Saint Laurent up on my wall because he is so great."

Why, when he is lauded and venerated in Tokyo, should Issey Miyake wish to live in Paris?

"I want to feel again part of European life," he says. "And I want to have a distance from tradition. I have never worn a kimono except when I was a child. I would never design a Miyake kimono, although I have often been asked. Tradition is dangerous for me. It is already perfect. I just like to peek at it."



Sandals made of palm leaf strips and bast from ancient Egypt, circa 1st to 3rd century, which are part of the permanent exhibits at the shoe museum in Schönenwerd, Switzerland

# EC draws up counter-retaliatory proposal in trade row with U.S.

**BRUSSELS**, Belgium (Agencies) — European officials put the finishing touches Tuesday on a proposal to strike back at the United States in a trade dispute sparked by a ban on American meat treated with growth hormones.

European Community (EC) spokesman Nico Wegter said representatives of the 12-nation trading bloc likely would be given a proposal Thursday for imposing higher duties on certain U.S. products.

The plan would be offered to counter measures that the United States put into effect Sunday to retaliate against the European meat ban.

Approval of such a proposal would escalate a dispute that already threatens to erupt into a serious trans-Atlantic trade war.

The Community's executive body, the European Commission, earlier vowed to slap higher duties on such U.S. imports as walnuts, honey, dried fruit and canned corn.

"The principle of retaliation on our part is already confirmed. It's already there. The only question is how we put that into practical terms," Wegter said.

The final details and imposition date of any such action would have to be approved by the mem-

ber governments.

American officials have raised the prospect of taking additional steps against any counter-measures imposed by the Europeans. Alfred Kingon, U.S. ambassador to the EC, said last week: "I think it's fair to say that you can anticipate further action on our side."

The friction was touched off by the beginning of enforcement Sunday of an EC ban on imports of meat from cattle treated with growth hormones. The trading bloc, also known as the Common Market, wants to prohibit for health reasons all meat from such animals.

"Officially, there is no possibility of accepting meat coming from the United States that has been treated with hormones," Wegter told reporters.

The ban is expected to block imports of about \$100 million worth of beef and beef byproducts from the United States, some of which are used in making pates and sausages. The measure

exempts imports of meat used to make pet food.

U.S. officials contend the use of certain hormones to fatten cattle, a common practice among American farmers, does not pose a health risk.

The prohibition was to have taken effect Jan. 1, 1988, but the trading bloc agreed to a one-year delay. It has since refused U.S. appeals for another, even brief, postponement.

The meat imports represent a tiny portion of the estimated \$166 billion in 1988 trade between the giant trading partners.

In retaliation for the meat ban, the United States applied Sunday trade sanctions worth about \$100 million against European goods.

The measures impose 100 per cent duties on boneless beef, pork hams and shoulders, prepared or preserved tomatoes, souffle or instant coffee, fermented alcoholic beverages containing less than seven per cent alcohol by volume, certain fruit juices, and certain packaged pet food made from grains.

U.S. Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter said last week that the EC's ban on U.S. meat was an unfair trade practice and therefore justified the American retaliation.

Wegter said that last fall, the EC proposed settling the dispute

by boosting imports of high-quality U.S. beef in return for American acceptance of the hormone ban. The offer, he said, was not accepted.

The Canadian government also has refused to go along with the meat ban. Australia, New Zealand, Brazil and Argentina have agreed to ship hormone-free meat to Europe.

**Delors call for firm line on both parties**

In Paris, Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, said Tuesday that the EC must adopt a firm line in its commercial disputes with the United States.

"If the Americans would like to breed with hormones, it's completely their affair," he said. "The only thing we are asking is that to the extent they are exporting to us, they should certify that there is no breeding with hormones."

He said the EC filed in November a complaint with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to protest the retaliatory U.S. measures.

The EC could adopt the counter-measures against the United States this week, but also could refer the matter to key ministers scheduled to gather later in the month, Wegter said.

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher last week appealed for the Common Market and the United States to avoid escalating the dispute.

"We do not want to see a trade war between the European Community and the United States," he said, referring to an EC-U.S. row over food exports.

"The best way for a couple to maintain each other's respect is to be firm," Delors told Reuters after lunching with French Prime Minister Michel Rocard.

Delors did not comment on how the conflict might unfold, saying the 12 would decide jointly on action.

# Kuwait said to profit \$700m from sale of B.P. shares

**KUWAIT (R)** — Kuwait will make profit of \$700 million by selling more than half of its controversial 21.6 per cent stake in British Petroleum Co. PLC (B.P.), newspapers Wednesday quoted government sources as saying.

They said Kuwait paid an average of £1.637 (\$2.96) for its shares and would sell 790 million of them to B.P. for £2.12 (\$3.84), a net profit of 48.3 pence (£8 cents) per share.

The sale, to take effect March 1, will leave the Kuwait Investment Office (KIO), Kuwait's London-based overseas investment arm, with a 9.9 per cent stake in B.P. Britain told it in October to cut its stake to that amount.

The Kuwait papers said the KIO would make an indirect profit on the sale of \$40 million to \$50 million through currency exchange, making more than \$700 million in all.

The KIO said in London Tuesday, when the deal was announced, that it would make a gross profit of about 16 pence (29

cents) a share on the sale, a total of £126.4 million (\$231 million).

Britain's state watchdog Monopolies and Mergers Commission said in October that the size of the KIO shareholding was a threat to British interests.

Kuwait's Al Qabas newspaper said Wednesday that B.P. would retain the shares it buys as "treasury shares," reducing its nominal capital.

It said B.P. agreed to pay Kuwait £2.47 (\$4.47) per share, but that Kuwait would receive 12 pence (21.7 cents) per share in profits until March 1 and 38 pence (\$1.05) for returned taxes.

As a government body, KIO is exempt from some British taxes.

The paper said that on March 1 Kuwait would also have to pay a final £1.05 (\$1.90) per share instalment on the original purchase, leaving the KIO a net profit from the sale to B.P. of £2.12 (\$3.84) per share.

Al Qabas said an American company had made an offer to Kuwait that was only two per cent less than B.P.'s, and that the difference could have been made

up through an earlier sale date. But it said the company, which it did not name, wanted a five-year option to buy the remaining 9.9 per cent of Kuwait's shares, which the newspaper said would have limited Kuwait's chances of making a good profit on them.

B.P. sells mineral interests

B.P. earlier said it had agreed to sell its mineral interests to international mining group RTZ Corp. PLC for £2.4 billion (\$4.4 billion), said to be the biggest deal between two British firms.

The mineral deal with RTZ excludes B.P. Canada Inc. and several minor interests. Analysts said it would help B.P. return to the acquisitions trail and focus on its core oil business.

RTZ chief executive Derek Birkin said the sale was the biggest between two private British companies and described it as a "dramatic and logical advance."

RTZ will assume responsibility for project financing of \$66 million and gain interests in Australia, Latin America and Africa.

## Nigeria explains strategy on debts

**LAGOS (R)** — Nigeria, pledging to make "every effort" to honour its foreign debts, said Tuesday that new loans would help the government deal with a burgeoning budget deficit and huge oversubscriptions.

Alhaji Abubakar Albaji,

minister of state for budget and planning, was explaining details of an austerity budget announced by President Ibrahim Babangida Sunday aimed at cutting imports and boosting farming and small scale industry.

Alhaji said \$2 billion — 37 per cent of foreign exchange revenues, 80 per cent of which come from oil sales — had been allocated to service repayments on Nigeria's foreign debt of \$26 billion.

In naira terms, repayments on

external and internal loans in

1989 will nearly double to 13.03 billion naira, compared with 6.92 billion in 1988.

Alhaji said fresh loans from the World Bank and other foreign creditors should narrow Nigeria's projected 1989 budget deficit of 12.88 billion naira, (\$2.43 billion at the pre-budget official exchange rate).

Alhaji said new loans should furnish around six billion naira (\$1.13 billion).

The first tranche of a \$500 million World Bank loan should by now have been released, cofinancing of around \$200 million is expected from Japan and an international creditors meeting in London next week could help mobilise more funds.

Alhaji said money from current projects, such as those funded by the United Nations Development

Programme, would provide about another 2.5 billion naira (\$472 million).

He said the remainder would be financed by borrowing from financial institutions.

The federal government will make every effort within available resources to honour the terms of all rescheduled loan agreements," he said.

He said efforts would continue to reschedule existing debt but borrowing from commercial banks and the international capital market would be discouraged.

Budget calculations were based on a rate for the naira of five to the dollar. But the naira fell in value by almost a quarter in 1988 and bankers anticipated a rate of six or seven to the dollar by the end of the week.

## Reagan rejects oil import curbs, fees

roleum imports threaten to impair the national security."

He said that, in deciding not to recommend any import restrictions, Verity took into account the U.S. administration's programme to improve energy security.

In particular, Reagan cited decontrol of oil prices and elimination of allocation controls as actions his administration has taken to strengthen the domestic oil industry.

"The strategic petroleum reserve contains over 555 million barrels, compared to 108 million barrels eight years ago," he said.

"Today, the nation is far less vulnerable to an oil supply disruption than in 1973 or 1979."

"Despite these improvements, important energy security concerns remain," the president said, citing rising oil consumption, declining U.S. crude production and rising oil imports.

## AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday Jan. 4, 1989  
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	78.8	79.2
U.S. dollar	476.0	478.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	383.6	385.5
Pound Sterling	886.0	872.3	Dutch guilder	238.4	239.6
Deutschmark	269.2	272.7	Swedish krona	78.7	79.1
Swiss franc	317.1	318.7	Italian lira (for 100)	36.5	36.7
			Belgian franc (for 10)	128.3	128.9

## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

**SYDNEY** — Institutional trading dominated another lackluster day for Australian stocks in a market hampered by the poor performance of futures contracts. The All Ordinaries index fell 9.3 to 1,470.7.

**TOKYO** — Bullish sentiment, for 1989 boosted a wide range of prices. The Nikkei index closed at a record 30,243.66, up 84.66, in the half-day session.

**HONG KONG** — Stocks closed at their highest levels since July 1988, with the Hang Seng index up 30.14 to 2,736.83.

**SINGAPORE** — Prices closed slightly lower after fluctuating narrowly in quiet trading. The Straits Times industrial index fell 3.54 to 1,030.69.

**BOMBAY** — Prices fell on a broad front amid fears that the budget for 1989/90 to be presented next month might not offer incentives to investors.

**FRANKFURT** — Shares nosedived on news that U.S. fighters downed two Libyan jets, knocking prices off post-crash highs. The DAX index closed up 5.75 at 1,365.08.

**ZURICH** — Prices closed steady in selective trading, with index up 0.2 to 954.5.

**LONDON** — Shares were back near the day's highs in moderate dollar's rise despite news that U.S. planes downed two Libyan jets. By 1603 GMT the FTSE 100 index was up 8.3 to 1,701.3.

**NEW YORK** — Stocks extended early gains of midday as the Libyan incident. The Dow was up at 2,150.

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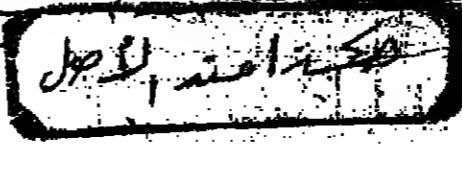
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## SPORTS IN BRIEF

## Penguins ready to play Soviets

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Pittsburgh Penguins will be missing several of their stars when they take on a team of Soviet all-stars in an exhibition game. The Soviet Red Army will play the Penguins Wednesday night as part of their seven-game North American tour against National Hockey League clubs. Defenceman Zarley Zapaski, a member of the 1988 Canadian Olympic team, is out for at least six weeks following arthroscopic knee surgery, and injured defenceman Paul Coffey and goalie Tom Barraso also are expected to sit out.

## Sukova wins through to third round

BRISBANE (R) — Czechoslovakia's Helena Sukova maintained her fine form of recent weeks to reach the third round of the Australian women's hardcourt championship Wednesday. The number one seed, who played a major role in her country's victory in the Federation and Hopman Cup team tournaments, swept past France's Alexia Dechaume 6-4, 6-2. Sukova, ranked eighth in the world, is chasing her second title here after winning in 1984.

## Pittsburgh Steelers shake up

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Chuck Noll was given a lifetime coaching contract by the Pittsburgh Steelers Tuesday, but four assistant coaches were fired and defensive coordinator Tony Dungy resigned. "Chuck Noll is our head coach and we have all the confidence in the world in him," said President Dan Rooney. "He is right for the Steelers and he is right for Pittsburgh." Noll, who will remain head coach for at least one more season, said: "I've always felt that I'd be here... always thought security is doing the job." Noll conceded he thought about quitting after the Steelers' 5-11 season this year, their worst finish since his first year as coach in 1969.

## Zamba wins Women's Surfing world title

HONOLULU (AP) — Frieda Zamba of Florida won her fourth Association of Surfing Professionals Women's 1988 world tour title Tuesday with points earned for a seventh place finish Tuesday in the \$25,000 sunset beach sunwear women's pro surf meet. Zamba won consecutive crowns in 1984, 1985 and 1986 and finished third in 1987. Finishing behind Zamba in the 1988 point standings was Australia's Pam Burridge, who finished fifth in the women's pro meet, followed by 1987 world champion Wendy Botha of South Africa, Jodie Cooper of Australia, Pauline Menczer of Australia and Alisa Schwarzein of California.

## Canada edges Finland in junior hockey

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Andrew Cassell scored on a rebound shot with 2:14 left as Canada defeated Finland 4-3 Tuesday night and stayed in the running for the title at the World Junior Hockey Championship. Canada, 4-1-1, meets the Soviet Union Wednesday in the final round of the eight-team, round-robin tournament. Besides a victory over the Soviets, Canada also needs a victory by the United States over Sweden to successfully defend its world championship. Rod Brind'Amour and Sheldon Kennedy each scored a goal and two assists as Canada overcame a 2-0 Finn lead. Canada outscored Finland 3-1 in the third period to secure the victory.

## Maradona advised to rest further

NAPLES (R) — Napoli's Argentine captain Diego Maradona has been advised to rest for several days because of back pain and will miss Wednesday's Italian Soccer Cup match against Ascoli, a club spokesman said. The spokesman said Maradona's injury was not serious but the team doctor had advised rest. Maradona, who led Argentina to World Cup victory in 1986, was expected to be back in league action against Torino Sunday. Napoli lost Ascoli Wednesday afternoon in the first leg of the Italian Cup quarter-finals.

## Robson pleads for more time

LONDON (R) — England soccer manager Bobby Robson, increasingly under fire since England's failure in last June's European championship finals, appealed Tuesday for more time to prepare for important matches. England, held at home to a goalless draw by Sweden in October, travel to Albania for the second of third World Cup group two qualifying matches in March. "I know the football league have cancelled the previous Saturday's matches for the Albania game. That's fine and correct, but no England manager should have to argue for more time to spend with his team before crucial games," Robson said in a television interview. "Whichever manager is in charge, he must be given more time than at present to weld a team together. That would give us the chance to compete on equal terms with other nations." England lost all their three matches in the European championship finals in West Germany, leading to increasingly outspoken calls for Robson's resignation in the British press.

For information about Charles Goren's newsletter for bridge players, write Goren Bridge Letter, P.O. Box 4426, Orlando, Fla. 32802-4426.

## HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

## THE Daily Crossword



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:														
1	Cut open	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
2	S Cut short	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9	Tenor Lanza	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
14	Living	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
17	Teens name	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
18	True	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
20	Vexes	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
21	— Lacoste	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34
22	(tennis name)	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35
23	City on the	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
24	Frothid	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37
25	Intelligent	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38
30	Fit for	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43
32	Consumption	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
33	Peter of films	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46
34	—	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47
35	Gr. letter	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
37	Fornicary	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
38	Residents	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51
39	Govic Mayen	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52
40	R — Roger	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53
41	Scrooge word	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54
42	Mystic card	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55
43	Double red	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56
44	Ideal state	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57
45	Colors	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58
46	Goofs	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59
47	Smeer	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
48	Germant	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61
49	—	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62
50	Endures	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63
51	—	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64
52	—	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65
53	—	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66
54	—	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67
55	—	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68
56	—	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69
57	—	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
58	—	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71
59	—	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72
60	—	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73
61	—	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74
62	—	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75
63	—	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76
64	—	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77
65	—	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78
66	—	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79
67	—	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
68	—	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81
69	—	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82
70	—	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83
71	—	72	73	74	75	76	77	78</td						



Chinese police hustle an African student in safety in Nanking

## Sino-African row spreads to Wuhan

PEKING (AP) — Several foreigners Wednesday told of violence directed at African students in the central city of Wuhan, the fourth city in which such outbursts have been reported in the last 10 days.

The violence occurred Saturday at the central China Polytechnical College in this city about 1,050 kilometres south of Peking, said a student from Gahon and a U.S. teacher, both of whom spoke on condition of anonymity.

In Peking, African students boycotted classes at the Peking Languages Institute Wednesday, a day after Chinese demonstrated against an alleged attack by a black student on a Chinese woman.

"Brothers, let us unite and fight for dignity," said a leaflet distributed by Africans at the institute. "Black is beauty."

In Wuhan, Chinese students put up posters reading, "black devils, go home" on the walls of the foreign dormitory at the college, said the Gabonese, who attends Hubei Medical College.

About 300 Chinese students also roamed the campus in Wuhan Saturday, throwing rocks at the African students' dormitory, said the student, who was at the college visiting friends.

School authorities responded Sunday by suddenly taking the college's 12 African students on a trip to the interior of Hubei province, where Wuhan is located; said the Gabonese student.

As Wednesday, the African students still had not returned to Wuhan, he said.

Other schools responded by cancelling African parties and urging dark-skinned students not to leave campus, said the Gabonese student and a U.S. teacher.

Last week, thousands of Chinese youths demonstrated in Nanjing following a clash between African students and Chinese at Hehai University over Chinese women.

Chinese authorities say the brawl occurred when two African students hit a gatekeeper who refused to allow two Chinese women to attend a party organised by African students.

Official Chinese news reports have said 11 Africans and two Chinese were injured.

**Torture denied**

On Tuesday, Su Xiaoxun, an official of the Jiangsu provincial government in Nanjing, denied allegations from African students and diplomats that Chinese forces attacked and tortured Africans at a guest house Saturday.

African students and a diplomat from Benin contended that Chinese militia members gave electrical shocks to African students on their faces, backs, genitals during the attack.

**Gandhi killing plotter one step near gallows**

NEW DELHI (R) — A Sikh civil servant convicted of plotting the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi lost another battle against his death sentence Wednesday, bringing him and the surviving killer closer to the gallows.

The Indian supreme court rejected a request by Kehar Singh, 54, for judicial examination of a Sikh extremist in police custody who claimed to have fresh evidence on the 1984 killing.

Satwant Singh, 24, Gandhi's bodyguard, when he and another Sikh killed her, has already lost several bids to delay his execution. Satwant and Kehar are expected to hang soon.

After a 30-minute hearing, the court rejected the petition filed by Ram Jethmalani, India's best-known criminal lawyer.

Former Law Minister Shanti Bhushan, who is assisting Jethmalani, told reporters: "Nothing is lost."

"In judicial processes there is no finality. Let's see if we will get relief from the court tomorrow."

Jethmalani has filed a special petition against President Ramaswamy Venkataraman's rejection of Kehar Singh's mercy plea and it will be heard Thursday.

Lawyers for Satwant Singh are also preparing more petitions in a last minute bid to delay the executions, originally scheduled for last month.

Kehar claims his conspiracy

**Shultz backs rights conference in Moscow**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State George Shultz has recommended that President Ronald Reagan accept a Soviet proposal to hold a human-rights conference in Moscow in 1991, a U.S. official said Tuesday.

If Reagan takes Shultz's advice — based on the Soviets' wholesale release of political prisoners and rising emigration figures — the stage also will be set for a new round of East-West negotiations to reduce conventional troops, tanks and artillery in Europe.

The start of talks between the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the Warsaw Pact had been waiting completion of a 35-nation review in Vienna of Human Rights in the Soviet Union and in Eastern Europe.

Apparently, the Reagan admini-

## Premadasa forms interim cabinet

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa formed a 20-strong interim cabinet Wednesday, urging ministers to ensure that essential services disrupted by recent rebel violence worked at peak efficiency.

Nine members of the old government were dropped. Seven were asked to resign because their constituencies did not return a majority for the ruling party in last month's presidential election and two more resigned on health grounds.

Finance and Planning Minister Naina Marikar was one of the two who resigned on health grounds. One of the two women in the old cabinet, Wimala Kannangara, also quit.

Premadasa said he would act as prime minister until parliament elections are held Feb. 15.

"The constitution empowers the president to exercise, perform

and discharge the powers, duties and function of the prime minister.... I have accordingly decided to function in the office of prime minister until the conclusion of the general elections," he said.

Premadasa served as prime minister to President Junius R. Jayewardene, who stepped down after 11 years in office. Premadasa resigned as prime minister before taking the oath as president.

Jayewardene dissolved parliament Dec. 20, a day after the presidential election, and set Feb. 15 for general elections.

Besides defence, Premadasa also retained the portfolios of

local government, housing and construction, highways, finance and planning, plan implementation, plantation industries, state plantations, provincial councils and manpower mobilisation.

The former chief of the joint operations command, General Cyril Ranatunga, was appointed defence adviser to the president.

Lalith Athulathmudali's National Security Ministry, responsible until a year ago the fight against Tamil separatist guerrillas, was scrapped. Athulathmudali was given the Food Ministry in addition to the trade and shipping portfolios he handed earlier.

The interim cabinet will function until a new government is formed after the February election. Premadasa has expressed confidence his ruling United National Party will retain power.

The interim cabinet decided at

news conference.

Perera said the cabinet in future would start proceedings with

proceedings.

"We will pray to our gods in our own minds before every cabinet meeting," Perera said,

noting that there were Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims and Christians in the interim government.

He said the cabinet noted that there had been no major violence since Premadasa was elected president in the Dec. 19 poll.

Police reported seven political killings overnight in provincial areas and said they suspected gunmen of the leftwing People's Liberation Front.

The front, composed of members of the majority Sinhalese community, described the election as fraud and attempted to disrupt it with attacks on polling stations, election workers and voters.



Ranasinghe Premadasa

its first meeting to draw up a code of conduct for future parliamentarians "so as to help them to lead a clean life," new Information Minister Festus Perera told a

The interim cabinet decided at

before a formal meeting can decide on the new force.

It is to be deployed by April 1 when the independence plan goes into effect.

U.N. diplomats said the situation was "back to square one" and that Razali would be holding informal consultations this week in an effort to break the deadlock.

The council gained one more non-aligned member this year, Malaysia, which could stiffen resistance to any cutback in the force.

At the same time, Angola and Cuba also signed an agreement providing for the withdrawal of 50,000 Cuban troops by July 1, 1991. About 3,000 troops are to be withdrawn Jan. 10, according to the Angolan mission.

On Tuesday, the new president of the Security Council, Malaysian Ambassador Ismail Razali, met Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to discuss the council's work and formation of the peacekeeping force. Five new members of the council will have to be briefed

As Security Council consultations broke down Saturday over conflicting demands over funds, U.S. Ambassador Patricia M. Byrne and British envoy Sir Crispin Tickell both blamed the Non-Aligned Movement for obstructing progress.

But Hidipo Hamutenya, spokesman for the Southwest

African People's Organisation, which has been fighting South African forces in Namibia, supported the Non-Aligned Movement.

"The situation has deteriorated in the last 10 years with buildup of South African forces... now the U.N. needs a credible military team to go in and clear the mess," he said.

He said the movement members do not believe South Africa has undergone any kind of change of heart in signing the Namibia agreement and simply wants to cut losses and reduced its overstretched defences over Angola and Namibia.

In addition to the five permanent members, the Security Council includes Brazil, Canada, Finland and non-aligned Algeria, Colombia, Ethiopia, Malaysia, Nepal, Senegal and Yugoslavia.

## Seoul cool to new Pyongyang offer

SEOUL (AP) — South Korean officials reacted coolly Wednesday to a recent North Korean proposal for unification talks involving political and religious leaders.

Kim Dae-Jung, head of South Korea's largest opposition group, described the North Korean proposal as impractical, while other opposition party leaders called it another political tactic "out of impure motives."

Opposition party officials rejected the proposal, saying it was aimed at causing unrest in South Korea.

On Sunday, North Korean President Kim Il Sung called for a political conference with South Korean leaders to discuss reunification of the divided Korean peninsula.

The North Korean leader proposed that the meeting be held in Pyongyang and he invited South



Oliver North

the country's highest officials to testify for the defense. He has said he assumed the president knew of his actions during the secret operations in 1985 and 1986.

North's lawyer, Brendan Sullivan, told reporters last week the defense had an obligation to issue a subpoena "for every person who has relevant information."

North, who loudly proclaims his innocence, had promised to call

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### India air crash caused by negligence

NEW DELHI (AP) — Reports submitted to an investigating committee indicate the pilot of an Indian airlines jetliner that crashed and killed 133 people occasionally forgot to do landing checks, a newspaper reported Wednesday. The Statesman, a Calcutta-based daily, also said the co-pilot did not have a valid flying license. The newspaper gained access to technical reports submitted to a committee appointed by the civil aviation ministry to find out what caused the Oct. 19 accident. Details of the inquiry will be submitted to the federal government Jan. 31, the newspaper said.

### Philippine boat disaster claims 16

MANILA (AP) — A motor launch carrying more than 170 people sank in the central Philippines, killing at least 16 people, the coast guard said Wednesday. Another 45 people were reported missing. Lt. Edmund Lustre, coast guard operations chief in Illoilo, said the cargo vessel Jem II sank Tuesday off Romblon Island, about 240 kilometers southeast of Manila. He said a coast guard rescue team sent to Romblon reported 113 people had been rescued and that the bodies of 16 people had been recovered. Lustre said most of the passengers were believed to have been high school students en route from Romblon to Panay after the Christmas holidays.

### Mudslides leave eight dead in Venezuela

CARACAS (AP) — Unseasonably heavy rains swelled rivers and caused mudslides that left eight people dead and 553 homeless along the central Venezuelan coast, authorities said Tuesday. The mudslides started Friday night in the mountains north of Caracas along the Caribbean sea, after several days of rain, according to Freddy Paris, head of Venezuela's civil defense force. Poor neighbourhoods along the banks of creeks suffered the heaviest damage, with streets swept away. So far, authorities have counted 126 houses destroyed and 247 severely damaged, said Paris. Eight bodies were recovered over the weekend from beneath the rubble and mud, said Paris.

### Gunmen wound Rome prison chief in ambush

ROME (R) — The deputy director of Rome's Rebibbia prison was shot and wounded Tuesday in an ambush in the town of Tivoli east of Rome, police said. They said Egidio de Luca was hit in the legs as he got out of his car. He was taken to hospital where doctors said his life was not in danger.

### Suspected rebels stage attack in Peru

HUANCAYO (R) — Suspected leftist guerrillas caused an estimated \$30 million losses in a dynamite attack at Peru's main metallurgical plant, a spokesman for the operators said Tuesday. The attack on New Year's eve and New Year's day destroyed three diesel locomotives used transport copper, zinc, lead and silver processed at the state-owned La Oroya plant to the Pacific Port of Callao, the spokesman said. He said Maoist Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso) guerrillas waging a sabotage campaign aimed at crippling Peru's ailing economy were believed responsible. No injuries were reported at the plant, which is 200 kilometers east of Lima.

### Two die, 20 injured in shantytown troubles

DJIBOUTI (AP) — Two people died Tuesday and about 20 were injured, including two policemen, when violence erupted between authorities and residents of Balbala, a shantytown on the outskirts of this northeast African capital, Djibouti radio reported. Violent confrontations lasted more than three hours and involved police and some of the inhabitants of Balbala who were opposing the demolition of their modest homes, mostly made of boards, cardboard and sheets of corrugated iron. The first incidents broke out in the morning, but did not become serious until the afternoon. Police used tear gas to break up the crowds, and when some policemen were stabbed, they used their guns. The demonstrators burned two police cars. The situation was not brought under control until army units were deployed. The Balbala shantytown houses between 30,000 and 50,000 poor people.

### Capsized boat built for 15

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — The launch which capsized off Rio on New Year's eve killing at least 53 people was originally designed to carry just 15 people, the builder said Tuesday. "The boat was made for private use, not tourism, and was designed to carry 10 passengers and five crew members," said Eliza Bezerra, the owner of Ceara Naval Industry which built the boat 19 years ago. Police and boatowners dispute the number of passengers on the Bateau Mouche IV. Police said there were 149 while the owners said only 124 were on board. About 40 people were rescued and 30 were missing. The owners said the boat was licensed to carry 150 passengers and that the accident was caused by passengers packing the upper decks and running to one side of the boat as it laboured through heavy waves.

## Column 10

### Americans, Vietnamese set out to rediscover giant ape

BANGKOK (AP) — Scientists are preparing to excavate a remote cave complex in Vietnam to piece together a portrait of the largest known ape — a three-metre-tall primate which died out more than 200,000 years ago, expedition members said. The excavation, planned for Jan. 4-28, is being billed as the first field research project involving scientists of the United States and Vietnam since their war in Indochina. Dr. Russell Ciochon said he and three other Americans would join about 10 Vietnamese scientists at the limestone cave about 120 kilometres southwest of Hanoi where there are known remains of the "gigantopithecus," an ape known only from sites in southern China and Vietnam.

Despite some earlier research by Vietnamese, East German and French scientists, very little is known about the giant, which is related to the orangutan, chimpanzee and gorilla. Only jawbones and teeth of the animal have been uncovered to date but Ciochon said the team hopes to find more complete remains in the large cave, which served as a weapons storage depot and bomb shelter during the Vietnam war. "One thing we know about it is that it was very big," Ciochon told reporters. The animal probably was a vegetarian, walked on four legs, lived on the ground, weighed about 350 kilograms and became extinct 200,000 to 300,000 years ago, the Americans said.

### Nude models infuriated in China

PEKING (R) — China removed five paintings from its first exhibition of nude art after angry models complained about their portraits being viewed by thousands of curious onlookers. Two of the female models have threatened to sue organisers of the hugely popular show at the China Art Gallery, claiming their marriages and reputations are threatened, the China Daily reported. The withdrawals followed a one-day strike by nude models at Peking's top Central Academy of Fine Arts who said artists had "betrayed" them by putting the paintings on show. The paper quoted organisers as saying the five most contentious paintings would be removed and replaced.

The two Koreas in recent months have traded fresh proposals for dialogue — sports talks, political and military talks on arms reductions and student talks — in addition to ongoing parliamentary talks.

South and North Korean lawmakers held a series of talks last year, with the latest meeting held last Thursday at the truce village of Panmunjom.

Talks between the two countries have been held on and off since the early 1970s.

### Free burial makes drinkers beware

ORLANDO (AP) — Some may call it a publicity gimmick, but Bob Neel believes that revelers find his annual offer to pay funeral costs for anyone killed in a drunken driving accident on New Year's Eve a sobering thought. For the past 10 years, Neel's Funeral Home and cemetery has offered a free casket, funeral service and burial to anyone killed in a drunken driving accident during the end-of-year celebrations. So far, no one has collected, and Neel thinks his offer has made a difference. "I can't prove it with statistics, of course, but I get so many calls and letters you wouldn't believe," Neel said Friday. "They tell me it's made them more aware of drinking. I know it has me and my friends. The publicity, I'm sure, has done some good." Neel, chairman of Woodlawn Memorial Park and Funeral Home, started the practice in 1979, and he believes he was the first to do so.

### Gamblers must be 'Creme de la creme'</h3